soap OPERA digest

BIG CASTING NEWS!

2 DAYS STARS EXIT
Cady McClain and Matthew Ashford

ALLEY MILLS WRAPS AT GH

GH
Is This The End For Willow?

LIFE AND DEATH DRAMA!

DAYS
Li Catches Gabi With Stefan!

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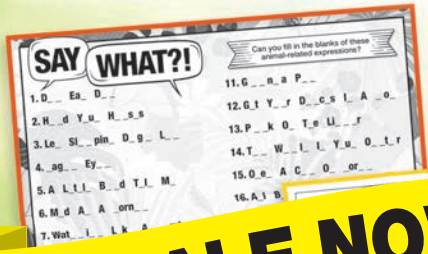

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COVER CREDITS: Chad Duell (Michael, GH). Photo: Craig Sjodin/ABC. Katelyn MacMullen (Willow, GH). Photo: Ricky Middlesworth/ABC. Brandon Barash (Stefan, DAYS). Photo: Chris Haston/NBC. Camila Banus (Gabi, DAYS). Photo: Howard Wise/Peacock. Cady McClain (Jennifer, DAYS). Photo: Joshua Shelton. Matthew Ashford (Jack, DAYS). Photo: Chris Haston/NBC. Alley Mills (ex-Heather, GH; Pam, B&B). Photo: Howard Wise/JPI.

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late-breaking news

hot off the press

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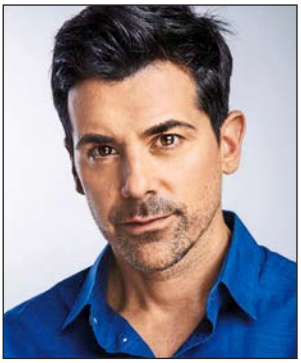
HOWARD WISE/UPI

ADAM HUSS ON GH RUN

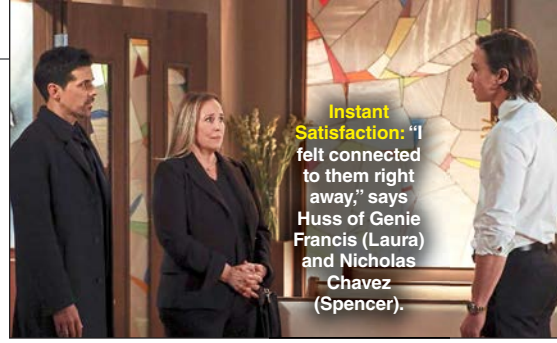


Adam Huss, who pinch-hit for Marcus Coloma as Nikolas several times over the last few months, was called back to play out his most dramatic GH material yet during his most recent stint, which ended with the character's apparent demise at Ava's hands.

Prior to his GH appearance, Huss had a brief but memorable 2002 run on B&B as Lance, who was killed when Sheila unleashed a swarm of killer bees upon him. "I had so much fun with that because it was ridiculous in the best way," he chuckles. "The storyline was so crazy and Kimberlin [Brown, Sheila] was so wonderful. She was very kind and very open and she taught me the art of stuffing the scripts behind the pillows [*laughs*]. I was like, 'Oh, I can do that?' And she was like, 'Honey, yes, you *have* to do that.' She was a blast to work with. You had to embrace the camp in that. I think my first line was, 'There's a bees' nest out there, dude! I'm allergic to bees!' and Kimberlin was hiding in the closet listening."

Over the years, Huss had done various auditions at GH for Casting Director Mark Teschner. "I had been called in a bunch of different times for the show," says the actor. "Mark is amazing and he's really loyal to people he likes. As an actor, you hear all the time, 'You did great and we'll keep you in mind for stuff,' but Mark really means that. And because of that, before this opportunity as Nikolas came up, I'd already dove into the world of GH and knew who certain people were, what circles they moved in and the different families. Plus, when I was younger, no joke, I totally remember seeing *Soap Opera Digest* at the supermarket checkout stand and for some reason, what caught my eye was the triangle between Lucky and Elizabeth and Nikolas. Even though I wasn't even a big soap watcher back then, I knew that storyline, so it was just surreal when I got to step into the shoes of this character."

In the limited amount of



Instant Satisfaction: "I felt connected to them right away," says Huss of Genie Francis (Laura) and Nicholas Chavez (Spencer).

CHRISTINE BARTOLUCCI/ABC

time he had to prepare, Huss watched some key scenes on YouTube, "and Mark and [Associate Casting Director] Lisa Booth said, 'Whatever questions you have, send them to us, you're not bugging us. We'll get you the answers.' And that invitation was awesome. It was like gold to go in with all that information, even though I had nerves, stepping into the shoes of another person who wasn't there, but was coming back, I knew I had done all the prep work I could."

His first GH scene partners were Maura West (Ava) and Kin Shriner (Scott). Declares Huss, "I say this with complete authenticity: They were both amazing. They embraced me and ran the lines with me to make sure I felt comfortable. They helped take my nerves away and because of their generosity, by the time we got to taping, I already felt connected to them. I felt at home right away."

When Huss read that GH and Coloma were parting ways, he assumed the show wouldn't require his services as Nikolas again. Then came the fateful call. "They asked if I was available to play out this arc, the close of the storyline," he recalls. "I went through so many emotions. I was literally about to go on a road trip to go home for Christmas the next day. And, of course, if GH comes knocking, you go, 'Okay, I'm changing everything and I'll stay!' I was immediately thrown from, 'Woo-hoo, here come the holidays' to, 'Boom, back to studying in my bedroom with the door shut.' And when I read the scripts, I was like, 'Holy.... Oh, my God!' I knew the magnitude of these scenes and I got a twinge of fear, but then I got excited. 'I get to come in and play all this juicy, well-written stuff, the culmination of this character's journey?' I just felt like, 'What a blessing that I get this chance.' I was just so excited. I just felt very prepared to go in and do it."

With his dialogue nailed down, Huss says, "When you're working with people who are so talented, from Maura to Genie [Francis, Laura] to Avery [Pohl, Esme] to Nicholas [Chavez, Spencer] to Rebecca Herbst [Elizabeth], every single person there that I got to work with, that was all I needed. I just needed to be open to this amazing energy coming at me. It just felt like everything in my body came alive. It was *so* exciting. It was just amazing to get to play with actors of this caliber."

When the intense, climactic scenes aired, Huss's performance drew rave reviews on social media. "That meant everything to me, seriously," the actor smiles. "I was getting so many kind messages. I get emotional about it. It was a difficult position to come into, and as a fan of TV, I get it — you don't want the new guy, you want who you're used to! It made me feel so grateful, to be embraced by the fans. I know how passionate they are."

If the opportunity to do more work on GH presented itself, Huss would jump at it. "I would be so honored to be asked back to that show," he nods. "I love every ounce of it. I feel like soap operas are sort of the unsung hero [of entertainment]. I love the work that I got to do there. I was in a prime-time TV show, POWER, for three years as a supporting character, and even though I was a series regular, I didn't really get the kind of scenes I got to do on GH. So, it would be amazing to get to do more. I feel I would just get better and better, and seeing how much everyone who has been there for so long still has that passion, still cares so much and wants it to be the best it can be? I'm like, 'I get that. I want to be a part of that!' "

GH: CRISES FOR MICHAEL

Michael and Willow arrive at G.H., hoping against hope that Terry has good news to report about Obrecht's suitability as a bone marrow donor for Willow.

As Willow's leukemia progresses, "I think it's one of those situations where it's almost like 'fake it till you make it' for Michael," offers his portrayer, Chad Duell. "Obviously, in the back of his mind is always the thought, 'Is she not going to make it?' But he has to constantly fight that thought from creeping in too much because he doesn't want to put that energy out there and he also just doesn't want that to be true. He just cannot allow that thought to run rampant in his mind, so he's just trying to hold it together and be supportive of her. That's what's most important, giving her everything she needs, the support and strength to get through this."

When Obrecht joins the conversation, Michael can't help but suspect that Willow's newly-discovered great-aunt has an ulterior motive for offering to help save her life. "Michael is curious about what it might be, but at the same time, honestly, who [cares]? Just give her the bone marrow! Like, we'll deal with the rest afterward! He would give her millions of dollars if that's what she wanted, just as long as Obrecht gives Willow the bone marrow!"

Man On A Mission: Michael (Duell) is remaining by Willow's (Katelyn MacMullen) side — except when he sneaks off to a secret, Sonny-related meeting with Dex.

CHRISTINE BARTOLUCCI/ABC

Over the course of their conversation, Michael gets a good sense of what Obrecht hopes will be the outcome of her altruism: Willow opening her heart to Nina. "I think Michael's reaction is like, 'If you want Nina and Willow to have a relationship, sure, okay.' Whatever it takes to save her life! The bottom line, for Michael, is saving Willow's life, and they can deal with the fallout afterward, if there is any. Michael is only thinking about Willow and Wiley and the baby — and that bone marrow!"

And the not-so-small matter of his ongoing vendetta against Sonny, of course. While Willow is otherwise occupied, Michael slips away to the hospital roof for a confab with an anxious Dex, who reports that he thinks Sonny is trying to shut him out of the Pikeman deal, which doesn't bode well for Michael's chances of sending his father to jail. "That's obviously not what Michael is hoping to hear," Duell says. "But from certain things Dex says to Michael, Michael can tell that Sonny has opened up to Dex about personal things and wants to be a mentor to him. He tries to calm him down and says, 'Don't be worried that he's on to you or that he's going to take you out or whatever. Don't be discouraged.' " Each man proposes a way for Dex to try to regain Sonny's trust. Sums up Duell, "All Michael wants is for them to finish what they've set out to do."

DAYS: LI CATCHES GABI AND STEFAN

Li surprises Gabi with breakfast and a planned day of romance, intending to use every minute of the deal he made with his wife to win her back.

"Li's agreed to hand over his DiMera shares to Gabi if she continues in their marriage for six months, during which he's going to try to woo her and prove he's the perfect man for her," explains Camila Banus (Gabi). "There are also limitations. She and Li are just married on paper. They're not sleeping together or acting like husband and wife."

Mine, All Mine: Li (Remington Hoffman, l.) reminds Gabi (Banus) that she's married to him, not Stefan (Brandon Barash).

XJ JOHNSON/JPI

Gabi is resistant to Li's plans, but ultimately agrees to spend the day with him. That is, until she gets a phone call, pretends it's from Arianna's school and has to go. "Gabi is not playing nice with Li," adds the actress. "He's romancing her, but she's not falling for him."

Gabi races off and secretly meets with Stefan, then proceeds to tell him about the deal that she made with Li. "Gabi's hoping that Stefan will immediately be jealous and possessive," recounts Banus. "That he says, 'This is not going to happen. I'm going to be your man.' But he doesn't. He takes the business route and sees the opportunity there. He tells Gabi, 'Let's play him.

"It puts her in a predicament."

Let's squeeze this for all we can and for all it's worth and stay in it.' Because, in the end, the two of them are going to win."

Stefan then professes his love for her, just as Li arrives after figuring out that Gabi lied to him. Li reminds Gabi about the fine print in her contract, which states that if she is unfaithful, she loses the DiMera shares. "The contract is clear," points out Banus. "Gabi and Li don't have to be having any sexual relations together, but Gabi can't be having any on the side. Gabi wasn't aware of the fine print, so it's a bit of a surprise for her. It definitely gives her second thoughts because she knows that Stefan finally does want to be with her, but now she's stuck waiting for six months. It puts her in a predicament."

Li pulls Gabi away from Stefan, and she blasts him. "It gets a little feisty. It gets a little angry," notes Banus. "But Li makes Gabi understand that if she wants his shares, this is what has to be."

Y&R: DEVON AND VICTORIA FACE OFF

Devon considers Tucker's offer to buy McCall Unlimited, but is wary that strings may be attached. "Devon is on the fence about it just because of his history with his father not being honest and how he manipulates situations to get what he wants," explains Bryton James (Devon). "It's also weighing on Devon that he's getting into this lawsuit with Jill and Lily, and that it's not a sure thing that he'll get his company back. So he's thinking of Tucker's offer as legitimate and it could be a safety net in case he doesn't end up with Hamilton-Winters."

The Company He Keeps: Devon (James) is suspicious of Victoria's (Amelia Heinle) fact-finding mission.

HOWARD WISE/JPI

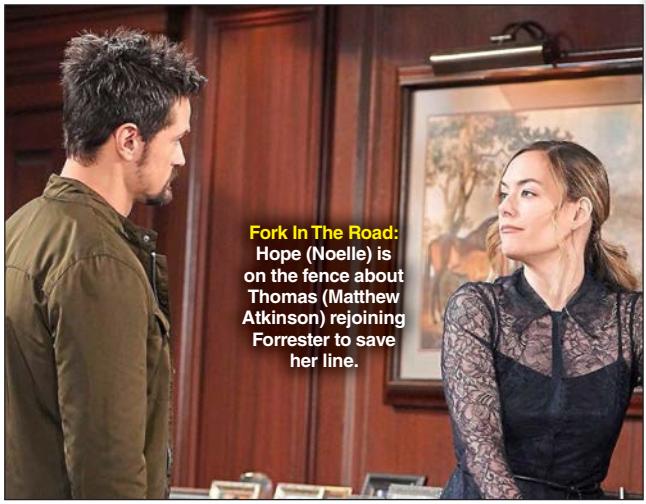
Devon is surprised when Victoria shows up at his penthouse. "She tells him that Tucker wants to sell his company because it's drowning in debt, and she asks if he tried to sell it to Devon," details James. "He won't give an answer, so she shares that Tucker had already agreed to sell his company to Newman but he backed out. When Tucker first pitched the idea to Devon, it was about wanting them to be family and carrying on the legacy. Now Devon hears that Tucker approached the Newmans first, and he becomes even more skeptical about Tucker's real motives."

"It isn't a smart move for Victoria."

Victoria advises Devon to allow Newman to buy McCall Unlimited, explaining it will be in everyone's best interests. "Devon isn't sure if that's a veiled threat, but it isn't a smart move for Victoria to say that because she just made it obvious how much she really wants McCall," the actor points out. "If the company has no value, as she claims, then why does Newman want it so badly? This makes Devon more interested than he was initially."

Victoria thanks Devon for his time and leaves, unaware that he's more conflicted now than he was before her visit. "Devon doesn't understand yet why McCall is so valuable to Victoria, but now he wants to do his due diligence before making a decision," notes James. "His interest has been piqued, all because Victoria made it obvious that Newman wants his dad's company."

B&B: HOPE'S BIG DECISION



Fork In The Road: Hope (Noelle) is on the fence about Thomas (Matthew Atkinson) rejoining Forrester to save her line.

HOWARD WISE/JPI

With lead designer Thomas gone and sales falling, Hope ponders the future of Hope For The Future. "It's been an up and down roller coaster," relays Annika Noelle (Hope). "On the one hand, she wants to save her line, her life's work and its message, but she doesn't want to compromise her values to do it."

Hope feels blindsided when Steffy, Taylor and Thomas suggest he could come back as the lead designer or that perhaps HFTF should be put on pause. "She thinks it's a limited view and disagrees with only being given two options — either work with Thomas or lose the line," notes Noelle. "But, she doesn't make the rules. She has to play by them. Hope is confused about the change of heart. Nobody seems to have a clear point of view with what they want. So, the water is quite muddy, and nobody is seeing clearly on this one."

As a result, Hope is unsure about her next move. "Hope feels like she's been put between a rock and a hard place," sighs the actress. "Either way, she loses, in a sense." So, Hope decides to use the situation to her advantage and has a condition of her own: She demands that Thomas go and personally apologize to Brooke for everything he did to her over the past year. He agrees. "Hope is surprised that he does it not just privately, but he makes the gesture public as well," remarks Noelle. "He seems genuine in his apology, so only time will tell if he's actually on the up-and-up."

"She wants to save her line, her life's work and its message, but she doesn't want to compromise her values to do it."

As to whether Hope thinks she could ever work with Thomas again, Noelle shrugs, "Sometimes you have to put your personal issues aside and do what's best for business."

GH'S JON LINDSTROM ON RYAN'S DEMISE

Jon Lindstrom took the latest demise of Ryan Chamberlain, the serial-killing baddie he's played on and off since 1992, in stride.

"It's not my show," he reasons. "If the powers-that-be figure that there's a character that has to be taken off the canvas in order to move other characters forward, that's the way it is. And, you know, if Ryan is gone [again] after 25 years of having been thought dead, 25 years from now, they could just bring him back! To me, it's neither here nor there. I mean, I would always be sad to say good-bye to such a terrific, colorful character, but as I'm fond of saying, 'Every show closes.' I've just been around too long to let something like this leave any kind of mark other than, 'That's just what we do,' or at least, 'It's part of what we do.' "

The actor will, of course, continue on as Ryan's twin, Kevin, and had the interesting challenge of playing one of his characters reacting to the death of the other. "I ultimately think, despite all the difficulties that they've had over the years between the two of them, it's still a death in the family," Lindstrom reflects. "I didn't play it sobbing and crying, though Kevin does believe he's gone. I played it as if there's a realization that this person is never coming back, which is what I think what happens when you lose a family member and that kind of hits you."

RICKY MIDDLESWORTH/ABC

The actor says he will miss the twisted on-screen dynamic Ryan had established in recent months with Alley Mills's Heather. "She is absolutely wonderful to work with," he raves. "She's very old-school, which I really appreciate! For an old guy like me, I love that she wants to rehearse and she wants to find the beats and the truth in the scenes for herself and for the relationship. She just brings a good, high standard to the work from the ground up. It's not like I worked with a bunch of slouches, I work with great people, but having Alley come in as fresh blood just made the work really exciting. I have really, really loved working with her."

Lindstrom is also grateful that reprising Ryan allowed him to work more closely with Maura West (Ava). "Maura is a terrific actor," he says. "I had a great time working with her on AS THE WORLD TURNS [as Craig and Carly]. I remember that when Frank [Valentini, executive producer] told me he was bringing Ryan back, she texted me a couple of days later and said, 'Hey, guess what? I'm supposedly working with you again!' And I realized, 'Ah, she's the blonde [that Ryan will be obsessed with this time around].' Nobody had told me any of that stuff, but I thought, 'Okay, obviously, Ryan is going to fixate on another blonde and it's going to be Maura! This should be a great time!' And it was."

Run Of The Mills: Lindstrom had a blast playing Ryan opposite Alley Mills as Heather.

CHRISTINE BARTOLUCCI/ABC

EARLY EDITIONS!

A preview of next week's stories.

BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL

- Sheila worries that Bill knows her secret.
- Hope delivers upsetting news to Liam.
- **Douglas makes another decision.**

B&B's Douglas (Henry Joseph Samiri)

PHOTOS: HOWARD WISE/JPI

DAYS OF OUR LIVES

- Maggie confides in Xander.
- **Belle and Sloan team up.**
- Johnny overhears a telling conversation.
- EJ and Stefan clear the air.

DAYS's Belle (Martha Madison)

XJ JOHNSON/JPI

GENERAL HOSPITAL

- **Nina weighs her options.**
- Laura refuses an offer.
- Elizabeth and Portia have a frank conversation.

GH's Nina (Cynthia Watros)

XJ JOHNSON/JPI

YOUNG AND RESTLESS

- Phyllis sets a trap.
- Nate creates boundaries with Vicky.
- Victor strikes a deal.
- **Tucker retaliates against Adam.**

Y&R's Tucker (Trevor St. John, r.) and Adam (Mark Grossman)

RATINGS RACE: WEEK OF FEBRUARY 6

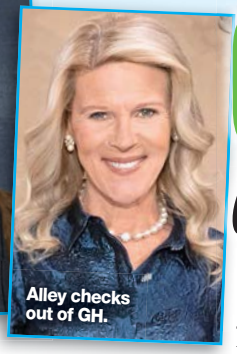
The numbers listed after each show are ratings points. Each ratings point represents 1,238,000 homes. These numbers now reflect DVR playback within the same day.

- YOUNG AND RESTLESS **2.28**
- BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL **2.09**
- GENERAL HOSPITAL **1.52**

** DAYS's ratings are not available from Peacock.*

NIELSEN MEDIA RESEARCH

Matthew takes a DAYS break.


Alley checks out of GH.

JILL JOHNSON/JPI; HOWARD WISE/JPI

Comings and Goings

the latest cast changes

who's coming

BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL

Zae Jordan (Joshua Howard): The doctor is in on March 9.

DAYS OF OUR LIVES

Aketra Sevillian (Talia Hunter): The Salem newcomer makes her debut on March 8 in scenes with Chanel (**Raven Bowens**).

GENERAL HOSPITAL

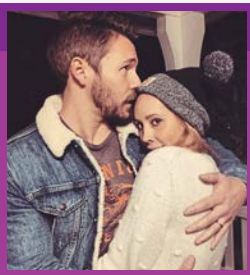
Drew Cheetwood (Milo Giambetti): Cheetwood, who began playing Milo in 2006 and was last seen in 2019, is reprising the role for the show's upcoming tribute episode to **Sonya Eddy** (ex-Epiphany), who passed away last December. The actor, who now resides in Michigan, posted on Facebook that after his return trip to the GH studio, "it really hit me how grateful I am for all the opportunity this show has afforded me." He went on to note, "Yesterday's episode was a tough one to film. We lost an amazing human being in December unexpectedly. Sonya Eddy lit this world up with an incredible light. She was so many beautiful things to so many people. We'll miss her greatly. Yesterday, I was asked to help pay tribute to that light. After all the show has given me, it was such an honor to give back in this way."

who's going

DAYS OF OUR LIVES

Matthew Ashford (Jack

REAL-LIFE STATUS



INSTAGRAM/EGAN; COURTESY OF SCOTT CLIFTON

■ **Baby On Board: Melissa Claire Egan** (Chelsea, Y&R) shared on social media that she's expecting again. The actress posted a photo of herself and her prominent baby bump, along with son **Caden**, who turned 1 last August, which is also the month she is due. The proud mama added, "Looks like we're just destined to have August babies! So grateful and excited to be adding another cub to our family of Leo baby boys. Caden's gonna be a big brother." Egan has been married to **Matt Katrosar** since 2014.

■ **Split Decision: B&B's Scott Clifton** (Liam) announced that he and wife **Nikki** have separated after 10 years of marriage. The actor shared the following statement with *Digest*: "My wife Nikki and I have decided to separate. Actually, we have been separated for some time now. She remains my best friend in the world, my partner in crime, and my closest confidant and the decision has

Deveraux) and Cady McClain (Jennifer Deveraux): After losing *The Spectator*, the two bid farewell to Salem and head to Boston.

GENERAL HOSPITAL

Alley Mills (Heather Webber): Heather was dragged back to D'Archam last week, marking the end, for now, of Mills's stint in Port Charles.

MIRANDA WILSON ON DAYS RETURN

Miranda Wilson was "thrilled to bits" when DAYS reached out to her to bring Megan Hathaway, the role she had reprised for 2022's BEYOND SALEM: CHAPTER 2, to the "mothership". "I have to say, the response to BEYOND SALEM actually did surprise me," she shares. "I've never done [DAYS] in this era of social media; I'm used to the olden days, where you get letters from fans and that's how you know what they think. But every day I was seeing all these tweets and all these posts, and I'm like, 'Wow, this is really cool. They *love* this character!' For me, it was this great, big, massive week of, 'Wow! Super! Amazing!' I was just really impressed by the impact that the character had on the audience, so on the one hand when they contacted me about coming back again, it was kind of, like, 'Well, of course they would like Megan to come back,' but at the same time, I was just like, 'Yay, yay! It works! They want her back! Woo!' I was really happy."

Reporting back to work for the second time since 1985 was a breeze, she reports. "The second time around, it felt like, 'Okay, I belong here. I'm not just a day guest.' I knew I was back because my work was appreciated and that meant the world to me. Even if you just get cast for something, it's almost like you're still on probation, so this was more like probation served, and now I know that they know they're going to get what they want. One of the first things I did was have a conversation with Al Alarr [co-executive producer], who I adore, and just said, 'Where are we going? What's happening? Where do I point my arrow before I shoot?' And he was amazing."

XJ JOHNSON/JPI

Getting to work with **Mary Beth Evans** (Kayla), **Deidre Hall** (Marlena) and **Lauren Koslow** (Kate) was a treat for the actress. "I enjoyed having storyline with the three of them; they're a hoot," she raves. "We really had a great time together. It's funny because I was just sitting there being the bitch, which isn't necessarily the foundation for a good friendship, so it was just this energy of, 'Hi, ladies, nice to meet you. I'm really nice, personally. I'm not as bad as Megan!' " Nevertheless, she appreciates the naughty nature of her alter ego. "I love how real she is," says Wilson. "How unapologetic. It is just too much fun. It's almost like, license to kill, I guess, is a good way to put it. Anything goes. It doesn't matter."

Though Wilson lives in England, she would be open to another return and appreciates how the show has found ways to bring Megan back. "It's hard to actually find words for how amazing it feels," she sums up. "Satisfying and fulfilling are the wrong words. It's purposeful in a way that's so expansive. I couldn't have asked for a more magnificent storyline or trajectory or position in the DAYS OF OUR LIVES family. I'm super-thrilled."

only deepened the love and respect we have for one another. Our choice was born of a commitment to one another's happiness and, above all, giving our son Ford the best life we can. We are grateful for everyone's support and ask that you please respect our privacy as we navigate whatever the future may hold." The duo wed on October 20, 2012; son Ford will be 7 in May.

In Memoriam: Film and TV star Stella Stevens passed away on February 17 at age 84 after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease. Between 1996-99, Stevens occasionally appeared as Jake, the proprietress of Port Charles's popular watering hole, Jake's. The actress also appeared on SANTA BARBARA as Phyllis from 1989-90, and the prime-time potboiler FLAMINGO ROAD as Lute-Mae from 1980-82.

Hot Plots Pr

GENERAL HOSPITAL
Molly And TJ Want A Baby

Party Of Three? Molly (Pullos) and TJ (Tajh Bellow) do some family planning.

CHRISTINE BARTOLUCCI/ABC

Molly and TJ have been so busy with their careers that they haven't thought much about becoming parents, but the topic jumps to the top of the priority list when Molly thinks she might be pregnant and takes a test to find out for sure.

"Molly doesn't want to let herself get excited because she believes that TJ is not going to be excited about having a baby right now," sets up Haley Pullos (Molly). "So, as much as she really does want to start a family with TJ, she's a little bit nervous. She's overwhelmed. She just wants to make sure that he's in the right place for it. Molly is always so concerned about everyone else and she's very concerned about TJ."

Off camera, Molly learns that the test she took indicates that she is not expecting. "The story picks up with the conversation between Molly and TJ about the results," reports Pullos. "I think that the negative result, for Molly, is kind of confirmation in her heart that she wants a baby. She loves TJ more than anything and, like, what's the next step? It's making babies together! So, finding out it's not happening is kind of heartbreaking for her and that spurs the whole conversation of, 'Well, maybe we are ready. Maybe it's time.' "

Molly is pleasantly surprised when TJ agrees. Beams Pullos, "TJ, who is almost always on the same page as Molly, is absolutely ready for a baby as well. And Haley is really excited about it!"

Stark Mad: How far will Phyllis (Michelle Stafford, r.) go to get rid of Diane (Susan Walters)?

HOWARD WISE/JPI

YOUNG AND RESTLESS
Will Phyllis Out Diane?

Jeremy is back from Europe and determined to find Diane, who is hiding out at the Abbott cabin with Jack. Stark enlists Phyllis's help with his search. "Let's say Phyllis is working in tandem with Jeremy," says Executive Producer/Head Writer Josh Griffith. "She'd never admit that she's working for Jeremy. She's bringing her own moxie to the plan."

There's no doubting that Phyllis's

eview! What Will Happen

DAYS OF OUR LIVES
Sloan And Eric Reconnect

Tossed into lockup after reprogramming Stefan, Eric and Brady receive a visit from Belle. She offers to represent Brady, but not Eric, who she's still furious with for assaulting Shawn and getting involved with Sloan.

Sloan, meanwhile, arrives at the station to urge Melinda to throw the book at Eric. "When you still have feelings for someone and you've broken up, you do things out of anger," says Jessica Serfaty (Sloan). "Or just to get a reaction out of them."

Melinda's puzzled that Sloan's so anti Eric, considering she just read a story in *The Spectator* identifying Eric as the best sex of her life. It awakens something in Sloan, who's "reminded of that," notes Serfaty. "Then she has a run-in with Belle and notices she isn't going to represent Eric. Belle's been such a snoot from day one. Sloan knows that representing Eric will get under Belle's skin. So it's a small win, and she'll be regaining the best sex of her life."

Sloan offers to spring Eric from lockup, conceding that things worked out with Li and Rolf. "Sloan's very direct. She's a bulldozer," contends Serfaty. "She goes in for the kill and gets what she wants. What she wants is Eric, and it's giving her an upper hand in this small little town with these small little people, a.k.a. Belle."

Eric and Sloan then run into Nicole. "Sloan loves ruffling feathers," teases the actress. "These types of things are just fun for her. They're part of the dance. It gives her something to wake up for in the morning."

Spring Has Sprung: Sloan (Serfaty) gets Eric (Greg Vaughan) out on bail.

XJ JOHNSON/JPI

hatred for Diane is leading her down a dangerous path. "This obsession is so overtaking everything else that she's reaching a point to the detriment of her relationships with Summer, with Daniel and even with her best friends, Michael and Lauren," notes Griffith. "Phyllis just can't let go of this sense that Diane has stolen the life that she should have had."

In trying to locate Diane, Phyllis discovers that Kyle has ordered a delivery to the cabin. She then calls the landline there and when Diane answers, Phyllis hangs up. "This freaks Diane out," the exec previews. "If she knew it was Phyllis, Diane would just be annoyed. But she thinks that it could've been Jeremy on the other end and now he's found her."

Phyllis then texts Jeremy and says she's found them, but will she go so far as to reveal Diane's whereabouts to the man who wants to do her harm? "Phyllis will justify what she's doing till her dying breath," Griffith explains. "However, she doesn't know that everything is about to blow up in her face."

1st sneak peek LOOK photos

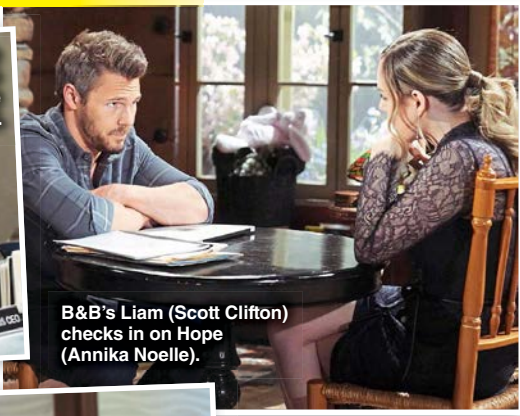
A glimpse of what's coming up in the week ahead!

PHOTOS: CHRISTINE BARTOLUCCI/ABC

Seems like old times as GH's (from l.) Anna (Finola Hughes), Felicia (Kristina Wagner) and Lucy (Lynn Herring) reconnect.

Maggie (Suzanne Rogers) is feeling executive sweet on DAYS.

XJ JOHNSON/JPI



B&B's Liam (Scott Clifton) checks in on Hope (Annika Noelle).

HOWARD WISE/JPI

GH's Sonny (Maurice Benard) bends Olivia's (Lisa LoCicero) ear.

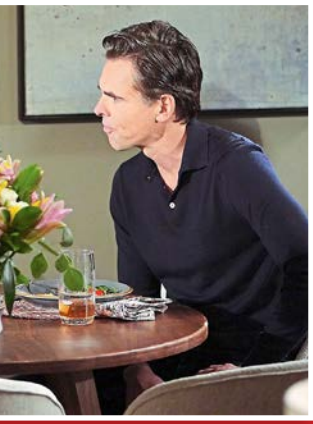
Y&R's Chelsea (Melissa Claire Egan) and Billy (Jason Thompson) have little to smile about.

DAYS's John (Drake Hogestyn, r.) looks on as Brady (Eric Martsolf) tries to get through to Rachel (Finley Rose Slater).

XJ JOHNSON/JPI

Ava (Maura West) looks unsure about Austin (Roger Howarth) on GH.

GH's Esme (Avery Pohl) takes well to mothering Ace.



HOWARD WISE/JPI

DAYS's Jada (Elia Cantu, l.) is thrilled to see Talia (Aketra Sevillian).

XJ JOHNSON/JPI

BEHIND the SCENES!

Social snaps of stars on set.

Jackée Harry (Paulina, DAYS, l.) posed with Jennifer Hudson after appearing on her eponymous show.

INSTAGRAM/HARRY

DAYS's Zach Tinker (ex-Sonny, l.), Lindsay Arnold (ex-Allie) and Chandler Massey (ex-Will) gathered together before departing the soap.

XJ JOHNSON/JPI

"I love @Lauralee_Bell [Christine, l.]," proclaimed Y&R's Jess Walton (Jill). "We had a scene together last week, the first one in many years!"

INSTAGRAM/WALTON

"It's been a long time since I've done a real photo shoot," enthused Eileen Davidson (Ashley, Y&R). "I'm so lucky to be able to 'work' with such talented and wonderful FRIENDS! Fun day today."

INSTAGRAM/DAVIDSON

INSTAGRAM/RIKAART

Greg Rikaart (Leo) and Emily O'Brien (Gwen) teased that they have a new DAYS scene partner.

"Port Charles today, Black Dog Yoga tomorrow. Grateful lady," reported Bonnie Burroughs (Gladys).

INSTAGRAM/STAFFORD

Michelle Stafford (Phyllis, far r.) posed with Mishael Morgan (Amanda) upon her Y&R return.

INSTAGRAM/BURROUGHS

INSTAGRAM/MCCLAIN

Cady McClain (Jennifer, DAYS) snapped a shot on the set of LAW AND ORDER: SVU.

Ptosha Storey (ex-Naya, Y&R) appeared on ALL AMERICAN. "Awesome show with an amazing cast. #blessed," she posted.

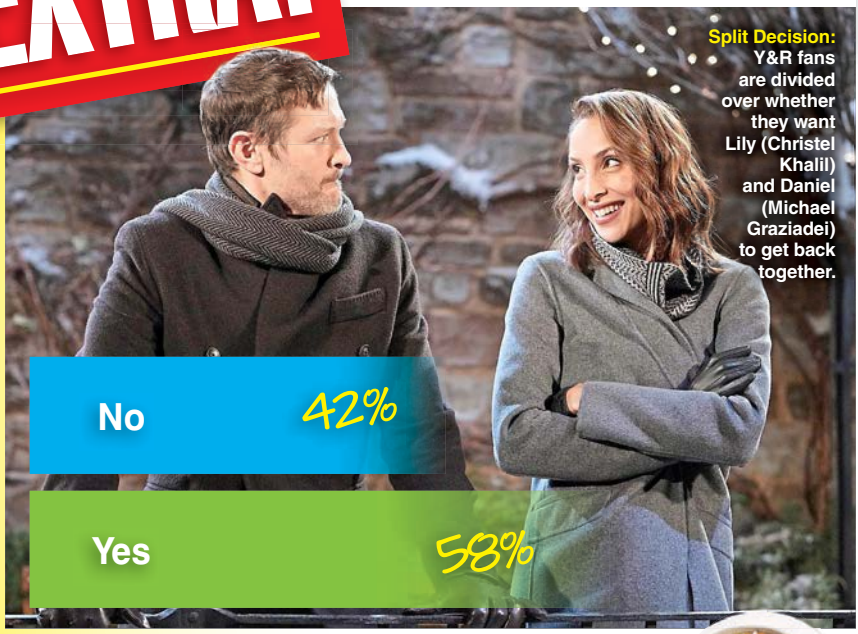
INSTAGRAM/STOREY

EXTRA! EXTRA!

snap POLL

Readers of soapoperadigest.com weigh in.

Should Y&R's Lily and Daniel reunite?



Split Decision: Y&R fans are divided over whether they want Lily (Christel Khalil) and Daniel (Michael Graziadei) to get back together.

HOWARD WISE/JPI

trend temperature

	The Evil, Dead (GH)	Phyllis's Employment Terminator (Y&R)	Exiting Horton (DAYS)
HOT	Ryan	Daniel	Jennifer
WARM	Peter	Summer	Allie
COLD	Faison	Abby	Will

STAR SHOTS OF THE WEEK

GH's Kirsten Storms (Maxie) snuggled with daughter Harper, 9.

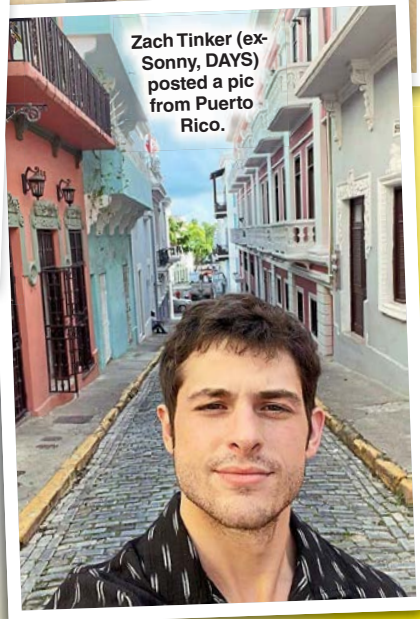
INSTAGRAM/STORMS

Shemar Moore (ex-Malcolm, Y&R) gazed at 3-week-old daughter Frankie.

INSTAGRAM/MOORE

"It's a Julie and Marlena play date! (Yes, there were stares!!)," shared DAYS's Deidre Hall (Marlena, r.) and Susan Seaforth Hayes.

INSTAGRAM/HALL



Zach Tinker (ex-Sonny, DAYS) posted a pic from Puerto Rico.

TWITTER/TINKER

Adrienne Frantz (ex-Amber, B&B/Y&R et al) and Scott Bailey (ex-Sandy, GUIDING LIGHT) showed off their brood (from far l.), Lion, 2, Amélie, 7, and Killian, 1.

INSTAGRAM/FRANTZ

Record This

your handy guide to must-see episodes

PHOTOS: HOWARD WISE/JPI

Bold And Beautiful

Sneaking Around

On **Monday, March 6**, forbidden lovers give in to their passion.... Liam causes Bill (l.) to doubt Sheila's loyalty on **Tuesday, March 7**.... On **Wednesday, March 8**, a secret affair takes a dangerous turn.

Days Of Our Lives

Fast Times

XJ JOHNSON/JPI

On **Monday, March 6**, Nicole and EJ turn the tables on Stefan.... On **Tuesday, March 7**, Johnny and Wendy (both r.) catch on to EJ's plan, and Rachel comes between Brady and Chloe.... Paulina hires Belle to defend her against Sloan, and Chanel gets to know Talia on **Wednesday, March 8**.... On **Thursday, March 9**, Alex and Maggie disagree over business matters; Chad finds himself in hot water with Stephanie; and Jada asks Rafe if he's romantically interested in her.... Johnny pulls a fast one on Tripp, and Gwen is heartbroken over Xander's confession on **Friday, March 10**.

CHRISTOPHER WILLARD/ABC

General Hospital

Breaking Point

Diane breaks news to Spencer; Esme's perception changes; and Victor threatens Elizabeth (l.) on **Monday, March 6**.... On **Tuesday, March 7**, Ava is rudely interrupted; Drew has news for Carly; and Sonny asks a favor of Olivia.... Curtis is stunned on **Wednesday, March 8**, while Anna and Valentin get new information, and Trina supports Spencer.... Trina briefs Ava; Maxie has a big idea; and Lucy is horrified on **Thursday, March 9**.

Young And Restless

Your Next Move

On **Monday, March 6**, Nick gives Adam (both r.) a reality check, and Billy shares words of wisdom with Kyle.... Summer confronts Nick on **Tuesday, March 7**, while Nate discovers a secret, and Sharon gives Billy a warning.... On **Wednesday, March 8**, Victor strikes a deal, and Daniel reveals a secret.... On **Thursday, March 9**, Ashley and Billy share a difference of opinion, and Chelsea takes on a new project.... On **Friday, March 10**, Nikki makes a shocking announcement; Summer strategizes against Sally; and Billy receives unexpected news.

TV TIME

On **Monday, March 6**, FANTASY ISLAND, starring Kiara Barnes (ex-Zoe, B&B) and Roselyn Sanchez (ex-Pilar, AS THE WORLD TURNS, both below), returns in its new time period.... On **Tuesday, March 7**, on the season finale of THE WINCHESTERS, John receives a message from a mysterious stranger; Carlos, Latika and Ada work together to find answers but time is running out; and Mary and John have a warm but awkward reunion.... On **Thursday, March 9**, it's the debut of SCHOOL SPIRITS, about a murdered teen, played by Peyton List (ex-Bess, ALL MY CHILDREN), who tries to find her killer and adjust to high school in the afterlife on Paramount+. Netflix drops the second part of season 4 of YOU, starring Y&R vet Penn Badgley (ex-Phillip).... On **Saturday, March 11**, Brooks Darnell (ex-Nate, Y&R, below r.) headlines Hallmark's rom-com GAME OF LOVE.... On **Sunday, March 12**, Michael Rady (ex-Jonah, MELROSE PLACE) stars in UNEXPECTED GRACE on Hallmark's Movies & Mysteries.

LAURA MAGRUDER/ FOX; ALLISTER FOSTER/CROWN MEDIA UNITED STATES LLC

Please Note: These are the scheduled air dates, released to us by the networks and TV production companies at press time. Due to last-minute pre-emptions, actual air dates may vary.

thumbs up! and down!

Best Of Show Or Worse For Wear? Digest Decides.

thumbs up!

GENERAL HOSPITAL

Truth Hurts

The long-percolating secret that Portia has been harboring — that Curtis, not Taggert, might be Trina's biological father — came tumbling out in richly dramatic confrontation scenes between mother and daughter, played to the hilt by gifted stars Brook Kerr (Portia) and Tabyana Ali (Trina). The writing was just as on point; the show delivered a plausible rationale for the previously baffling story point of why Portia kept this all under wraps for so long, particularly when she rekindled her relationship with Curtis and planned to marry him (she found out she was pregnant after Curtis ended things between them and when Taggert came home and saw her positive pregnancy test, she didn't have the heart to disappoint him). Kerr's heartfelt performance sold Portia's pain and shame, and the notion that once she had committed to the (possible) lie, she didn't see a way out; and Ali was just as riveting in her embodiment of a shattered Trina's hurt and anger.

CHRISTINE BARTOLUCCI/ABC

GH's Trina (Tabyana Ali)

thumbs down!

DAYS OF OUR LIVES

Get Smart

Stefan's brainwashing and the subsequent attempts to deprogram him are pushing the boundaries of believability — even for a soap, and even for DAYS. Daytime viewers are trained to ignore scripted insanity for the sake of a plot, but there is nothing tethering this particular tale to reality. After all this brain-tampering, Stefan probably wouldn't be alive, much less able to walk, talk and form intelligible sentences. The measures to unscramble his brain aren't even being performed in a bona fide lab or sterile hospital outfitted with things like state-of-the-art equipment or an anesthesiologist, which would lend some feasibility to the admittedly preposterous scenario. Instead, Gabi knocked Stefan out, dragged his body into the secret room at the DiMera mansion and demanded that Rolf work his diabolical magic on the

Applause, Applause

Kudos to GH for casting a father and a brother for Portia; them being in attendance at her wedding was a great touch, and we wish they could have stayed longer.... Loved Camila Banus's choice on DAYS to rub her arms as if Gabi was cold when she stopped to chat with Wendy in the park, a nod to the fact that it is, indeed, chilly in the winter in the Midwest, where the show is set.

Picky Picky

There were plenty of ways GH's Obrecht could have chastised Carly for not disclosing Willow and Nina's biological connection without her saying, "You call yourself a mother? No one worthy of that title could ever deprive a woman of her own child" — because as longtime fans know, Obrecht calls *herself* a mother and deprived Anna of Robin, and Robin of Emma, when she helped hold Robin captive! ... Why is fired employee Thomas so easily able to sneak into the Forrester Creations headquarters on B&B?

spot. Stefan survived the procedure, instantly coherent and able to remember his love for Gabi — but since he hadn't shed his planted feelings for Chloe, Gabi's determination to tinker with his noggin redoubled. There is some absurdist fun to be had from this arc, but the clock is ticking on its entertainment value.

thumbs up!/ thumbs down!

BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL

Taylor Made

It was a smart choice for B&B to revisit the unresolved 2018 arc in which Taylor shot Bill, an impulsive act/heinous crime for which Taylor never faced justice. Though she wasn't playing Taylor at the time of the shooting, Krista Allen has nailed her portrayal of Taylor's inner torment, creating powerful moments when Taylor tearfully wrote out a confession, and with how shaken she was when Sheila confronted her and pointed out that they've both lost control of their trigger finger and are more alike than Taylor would care to admit. (The key difference being that Taylor shot Bill because she believed he had taken advantage of her daughter, whereas Sheila simply succumbed to good old-fashioned rage.) What is diminishing the tale, however, is that Brooke and Steffy seem to think it's utterly outrageous that Bill would threaten to turn Taylor in to the cops ... *for a crime she actually did commit*. Surely, even in the face of their fervor to protect Taylor by keeping her crime under wraps, they could see that Bill is perfectly within his rights to see that the person who nearly killed him face the music for her actions. □

Performers Of **The Week**

Michael Graziadei and Michelle Stafford

(DANIEL AND PHYLLIS, Y&R)

HOWARD WISE/JPI

Daniel confronting Phyllis for interfering in his precarious love life highlighted the skill with which portrayers Michael Graziadei and Michelle Stafford bring their characters' relationship to life.

Stafford made Phyllis's strategy (deny, deny, deny!) clear as Daniel charged into the room, doing her best wide-eyed and innocent act as Daniel accused her of not seeking his permission to visit his estranged girlfriend because he wouldn't have granted it. "I can't care about my son?" she posed with mock indignation, clutching her chest as though his suspicion was wounding her. "I can't visit Lucy?" Her confirmation that she had made contact with both Heather and Lucy triggered a subtle but impactful shift in Graziadei's body language. Steeling himself, he braced for a briefing he knew might be far from what he wanted to hear. Gruffly, he asked, "Are you gonna tell me what happened?"

Phyllis painted a rosy picture of her conversation with Heather, and Stafford amped up her positivity to sell the claim, overly effusive just enough to allow Daniel to see through her. As he listened, Graziadei masterfully communicated Daniel's failing battle not to get his hopes up, his already-low spirits sinking as he realized Phyllis's efforts had been "one big failure". There were notes of anger, frustration and even shame over how he'd made a mess of things as he lambasted Phyllis for overstepping. She was agog by what seemed to her as a lack of gratitude, stretching out her arm to drive home just how far she had traveled on her mission to help him put his family back together, which only stoked his frustration, and soon, they were arguing over one another, equally determined to get the last word. It was Daniel who got it, letting out a harsh, indignant laugh at her stubbornness — then firing her from Omega Sphere and storming out, leaving her speechless.

The scenes captured the truism that few people can push our buttons as well as members of our own family. Indeed, even as Daniel and Phyllis's bond splintered, the familiarity and intimacy the actors conveyed never wavered.

editor's note

JIM WARREN

Dear Readers,

I was a casual ONE LIFE TO LIVE watcher before I worked at the magazine. My usual soap go-to in the 2 p.m. hour, where ONE LIFE aired in New York City, was ANOTHER WORLD or AS THE WORLD TURNS. But I did find myself drawn to the Woleks, Karen, played by Judith Light, and Jenny, played by Brynn Thayer. I recently had the chance to talk to Brynn, who wrote a play that is now being performed in Los Angeles. The origin story for the drama is fascinating, not to mention deeply emotional, and she opened up about it in an interview we did on page 42.

Y&R's Peter Bergman and Susan Walters are having a great time exploring Jack and Diane 2.0. On page 30, they talked to Devin Owens about finding love for their alter egos the second time around. Are you rooting for this pair? Let us know at SODsound@soapoperadigest.com.

GH is gearing up to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the show on April 1 and did a new cast photo shoot to mark the occasion. We have outtakes from the shoot on page 46.

We all make mistakes at work. Actors are no different. In our Roundup on page 36, your faves reveal the latest blooper they made on set.

Stephanie Sloane

Stephanie Sloane,
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By Carolyn Hinsey

It's Only My Opinion

Daytime's most outspoken columnist!

Follow Carolyn on Twitter @carolynhinsey

■ Why write for front-burner characters we love to hate? So we can watch them fail and/or get killed in a juicy murder mystery. That's it.

■ I hope that's the direction Y&R is going with Tucker McCall. During his first go-round, he married Ashley and Sharon, slept with Jill and Diane, committed fraud and bribery, and got hit by Abby's car. *None* of that has been played this time except for his "love" for Ashley, which reads more like empty smarminess since he's been sleeping with Audra the whole time.

Let the failure begin.

Victoria: "I don't know what I'm looking forward to more: Owning Tucker's company or the look on his face when he realizes he's been bested."

Victor: "It's a fitting slap in the man's face after all the damage he's done to the people I care about."

Add how much he's hurt his son, Devon. The only way for this jerk to go is down and out.

Tucker's former bed partner Diane is another one trying to rewrite history, although she could evolve into someone we love to hate *if* they acknowledge she stole Jack's sperm to "make" Kyle. Diane's efforts to be "part of the family" while trying to convince Kyle to give her Phyllis's old job at Marchetti was Machiavellian at best, sinister at worst.

Diane: "I love seeing how closely all the Abbotts work together and I want to belong to that."

Why write for front-burner characters we love to hate?

Kyle: "There are other ways to be part of the family without running an entire division of a company."

Diane: "You wouldn't understand. You've been surrounded by a loving family your whole life."

Kyle: "Not always. There was a time when I didn't have a mother."

Thank you.

Ashley also has Diane's number, but unfortunately Jack isn't picking up.

Jack: "How much is it going to cost to get you out of this house?"

Ashley: "That's gonna happen when hell freezes over."

Now you're talking! Open warfare in the Abbott mansion ... *Team Ashley*.

■ As much as it shocks me to say this, I am also Team Deacon. He's the only B&B character who seems to care about psycho Sheila, and after hiding her from the cops, he seemed genuinely hurt when she dumped him for Bill.

Sheila: "Bill is rich and powerful."

Deacon: "It doesn't make him a good person."

Sheila: "He's sexy and he's mine. All mine."

If trying to murder half the town isn't reason enough, dialogue like that oughta do it. When Deacon said he still had feelings for her, Sheila's response was

pure evil.

Sheila: "You are a loser."

Every show needs a villain but this one is all over the map. What does Sheila want? Who does she love? She needs a purpose besides lurking outside Steffy's house and showing up in Forrester offices to randomly threaten the workers.

More believable was Douglas deciding he didn't want to live with either Hope or Thomas, choosing instead the happy home of his Aunt Steffy.

Hope: "What does this say about us as parents?"

That he's tired of all your fighting! Meanwhile, B&B really has no faith in our ability to work out the family relationships on a show with 12 main characters.

Thomas: "Steffy is his aunt. She's my sister. I'm her brother."

Liam's eyeroll was all of us.

■ If ever a character deserved to take a header, it was GH's Nikolas after cheating on Ava, kidnapping Esme and mistreating Spencer. Yes, he can be redeemed when they inevitably bring him back, but even Laura — who didn't know the half of it — knew her messed-up son needed a break.

Laura (*after rehashing Nik's failings*)**:** "How will it end?"

Ava's eyes trailed to the blood on the carpet where she had clocked him....

A bonus of losing a hated front-burner character is that it makes room for others we like. Who'd have thought Nikolas's "death" would result in a new couple? Ava and Austin give me all the AS THE WORLD TURNS feels (Carly Tenney and Paul Ryan, duh) as they navigate Nikolas's "death". He was mighty impressed watching Ava handle Laura, Liz and Spencer's questions about where Nikolas might be (hint: wrapped in a tarp).

Austin: "You're really good at this."

Ava: "No time for compliments. We've got a body to move."

■ DAYS's Leo has the potential to morph into someone we love to hate (like Sami, Vivian and Kristen, when she's not acting like a cartoon) but Gwen is too far gone. Blackmailing Jack into giving her *The Spectator* so she could be "editor-in-chief" was the last straw.

Xander: "Do you give us *The Spectator*..."

Gwen: "... or does your wife spend the foreseeable future as a guest of the state?"

Neither, if logic had been applied. Let's review: Gwen is mad at bio dad Jack because he didn't raise her, even though he didn't know she existed until 2021. Jack also forgave Gwen for lying that his daughter, Abigail, threw Gwen down a flight of stairs. That's at least comparable to a drugged-up Jennifer hitting Gwen with her car, for which there is no proof.

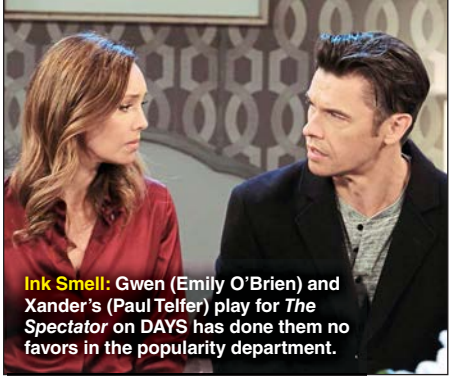
Jen's response to the money-grubbing Xander and Gwen was perfect.

Jennifer: "Since neither of you has ever produced anything worthwhile in your life, you can't comprehend the amount of work this man — *your* friend and *your* father — put into this paper. Go ahead. Call the cops."

Unfortunately, by the end of the episode, Jack caved and Gwen took "what was mine".

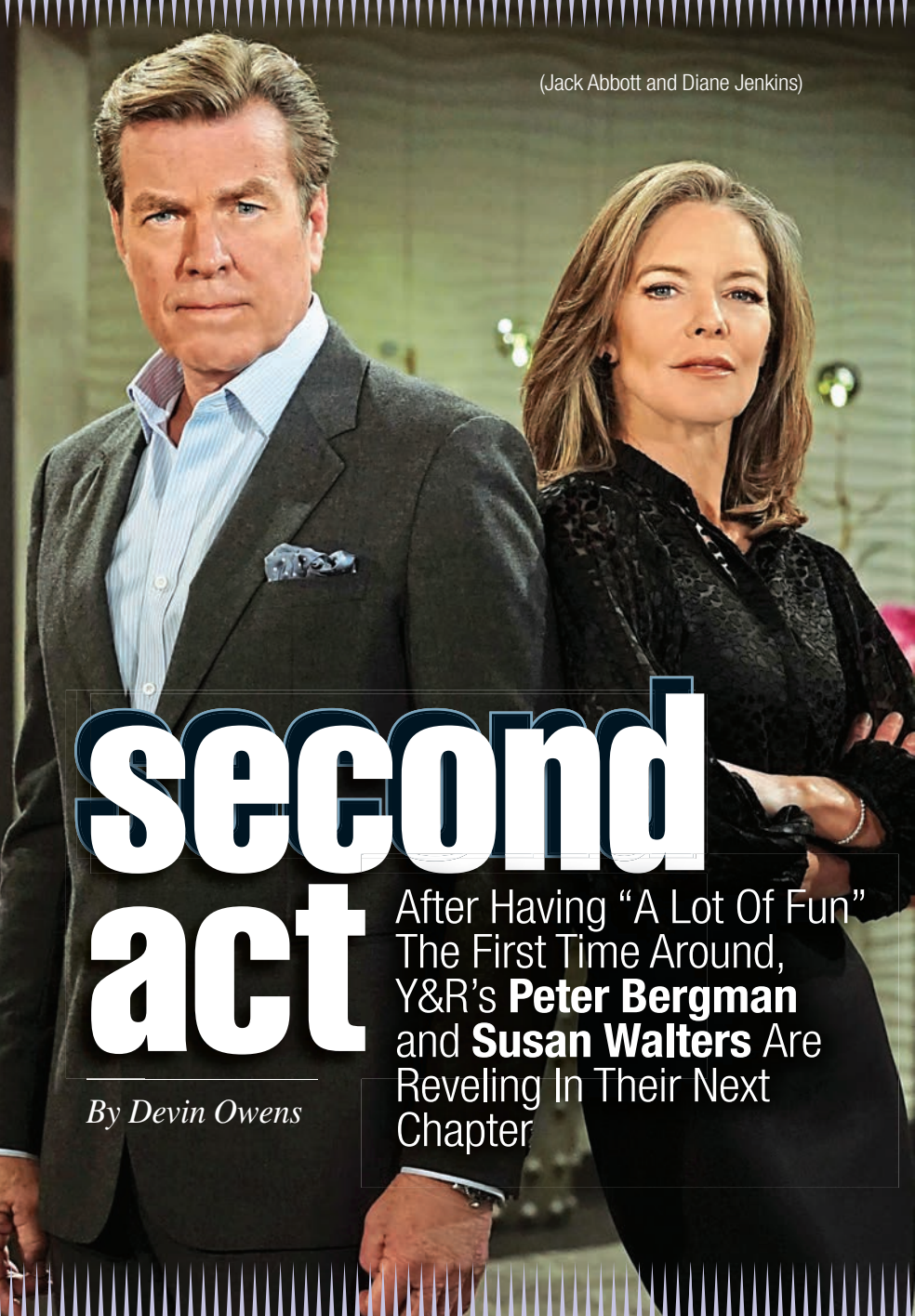
No. Gwen is the female Tucker McCall: An empty evildoer hurting the family she claims to love. Excellent dialogue like Jennifer telling Xander that going from Sarah to Gwen "wasn't exactly trading up" helps, but a character as irredeemable as Gwen has clearly earned a juicy murder mystery.

■ Hey. It's only my opinion. □



Ink Smell: Gwen (Emily O'Brien) and Xander's (Paul Telfer) play for *The Spectator* on DAYS has done them no favors in the popularity department.

XJ JOHNSON/JPI



(Jack Abbott and Diane Jenkins)

second act

After Having "A Lot Of Fun" The First Time Around, Y&R's **Peter Bergman** and **Susan Walters** Are Reveling In Their Next Chapter

By Devin Owens

Soap Opera Digest: During Susan's first stint on the show, Diane was laser-focused on splitting up Jack and Phyllis. What stands out to you most about that era?

Peter Bergman: It was a lot of fun.

Susan Walters: Yeah, there was a lot of funny stuff that went on.

Bergman: We had a lot of laughs, it was crazy.

Walters: I just remember there was a lot of laughter behind the scenes, but now we seem to be moving at such a pace all the time that we don't get to laugh a lot. Peter, do you remember when Diane finally seduces Jack, but I have this cast on my leg from having put myself behind Phyllis's car, so I had to have crutches and a cast in a negligée? I remember thinking, "This is just hell," and we laughed so hard.

Bergman: This is as bad as it got, exactly: "Aren't I sexy bringing my crutches to bed with me?" They were crazy, fun times. They really were. Here's something I remember, we had one of those many celebrations that [Co-Creator/Former-Head Writer] Bill Bell threw at the Bel-Air Bay Club, and at one point, Susan and [her husband] Linden [Ashby, ex-Cameron et al], Michelle Stafford [Phyllis] and maybe Christian [J. LeBlanc, Michael] were at the table and I think Michelle said, "Oh, we got the best table in the whole place!" and I actually felt that to my core, that I was at the most fun table.

Walters: The "cool kids" table. I have no recollection of that night. I have no idea what was I wearing?

Bergman: I don't know.

Walters: It was probably black. I'm looking forward to the 50th anniversary, black-tie event because we can have you and [your wife] Mariellen and Michelle and Christian and me and Linden at a table again. I mean that's what's so fun about this.

Digest: What stands out to you about that first day of working together again?

Bergman: The first day I worked with Susan, I called home and told Mariellen....

Walters: "She's still a crazy person!"

Bergman: "I am just so happy."

Walters: Aww. It's a really nice place to work. Everybody on the show is so good, but I feel especially lucky with our little pod.

Bergman: Yeah, it's a good pod.

Digest: When it was explained to you, what did you think of the story that Diane was re-entering the land of the living to reconnect with Kyle?

Walters: I didn't have a problem with it because, first of all, I never played that Diane who died. And secondly, for Susan, I was thrilled to have this job, so yeah, this all makes sense. And then I have to say, I know these things are a stretch, you have to suspend a little disbelief, but I think [the writers] did a really good job with it.

Bergman: I think they did a really fine job, too. What was important is not, "Oh, come on, she couldn't possibly be alive." What was important to the audience was, "Oh, my God, how's Nikki going to react? Oh, my God, how's Ashley going to react?" That was more important than, "Wait, that couldn't happen." Everyone in town was in disbelief, but more than that, they were just furious. In this work, we suspend disbelief to bring in a new person to play a character and we didn't have that with Susan because the audience was immediately familiar with her as Diane.

Walters: What else is great is the characters that Diane interacted with were like, "What are you talking about that you faked your death? You were bludgeoned, I had to go to jail," so it was meant to be crazy but we were able to still explain that. Diane wasn't righteous about how she did it, she was like, "This *is* crazy." It worked for me, I didn't have a problem with it at all.

Digest: How would you describe the off-camera dynamic between you and Michael Mealor (Kyle)?

Walters: Obviously, Susan and Michael don't have the same relationship that Kyle and Diane have, but I love Michael. He's fantastic. He had to jump in to do things with me that were huge, and we had never even laid eyes on each other but once in the

SONJA FLEMING/CBS

hallway. Our first scene together, we were first up in the morning, and you can say, "Oh, it lends itself having not seen each other for all these years," but as actors, you want to know the person. But he's great. I love Michael.

Bergman: It's so impressive to watch Susan build relationships with everyone in our little pod. She and Michael get together and laugh about the text they sent each other yesterday.

Walters: That poor kid.

Bergman: It's really lovely watching her take the time to build relationships and friendships.

Walters: Well, that's really nice to hear. Like I mentioned before, our days go by fast, so there's not a lot of hang time.

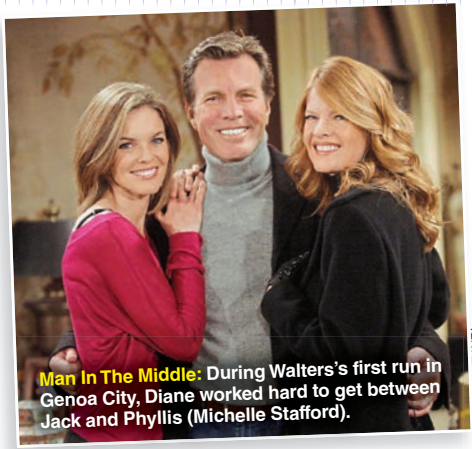
Digest: When Diane first came back, Phyllis was more of a prominent figure in the storyline. What dynamic does Michelle bring to these characters?

Walters: She brings the fire!

Bergman: Phyllis is very flammable and any second could go off, and either way. What that does to Diane's very careful plan and Jack's thoughtful positioning and understanding of the situation, Phyllis walks in and all of that goes out the window and off we go. Michelle is fantastic and she's very good at what she does.

Digest: Jack getting back together with Diane has stirred up a certain degree of controversy among fans; some viewers feel like the Jack Abbott they know would never give this woman another chance. Do you understand where those viewers are coming from?

Bergman: We did ask the viewers to come a long way and it was a challenge we both knew we had, but we needed to sell this to half of the audience, not the whole audience, to get on board with this romance. And I think along the way, the audience sees a man trying to put a family back together and they see a woman who knows she's done wrong trying to redeem herself, and they see an entire town go after this poor woman whose major thrust is reuniting with her son. And all of these mothers and grandmothers are teaming up against her and I think the audience says, "Give her a chance."



Man In The Middle: During Walters's first run in Genoa City, Diane worked hard to get between Jack and Phyllis (Michelle Stafford).

SEAN SMITH/JPI

Walters: If you've done something wrong and the other person does something just as wrong or even more wrong, it kind of helps your case a little bit.

Digest: What do you see as the rooting value for this couple?

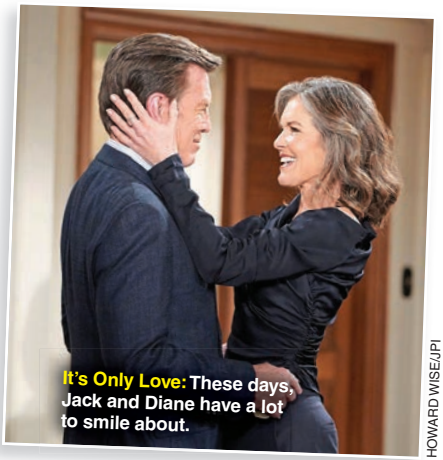
Bergman: It's simple and clear: They're rebuilding a family. Every couple that has kids and divorces, the biggest central problem is the focus of, how do we do this for the children? And this is something that Jack has lived with, and that she's lived with, but in finding their way back to each other, they are reuniting a family.

Walters: Diane may be controlling with all these other people in her life, but she appreciates Jack and lets him take the reins with a lot of things and I think there's something he might like about that.

Bergman: You can't learn forgiveness and then unlearn forgiveness. You can't do that. And so he feels this genuine love for this person who needs to be forgiven. There's something really powerful about it.

Digest: Susan, what are you enjoying about playing this kinder, gentler version of Diane?

Walters: Well, I don't think she's all of a sudden become the sitting-in-the-parlor matriarch sort of person, so I still think the



It's Only Love: These days, Jack and Diane have a lot to smile about.

HOWARD WISE/JPI

experiences that the old Diane had made her the new Diane. So obviously, after that much time and what she's been through, she has a lot more depth and still has a backbone. It doesn't feel like they gave the character a lobotomy or anything. It's kind of like maybe how it would track in reality. I totally appreciate that Diane has age and experience.

Bergman: I, too, am very grateful, but the same Diane who is tender and loving with Jack cannot be left alone in a room with Phyllis.

Walters: And I like we get to see that other part of her with Tucker. At this point, it's multidimensional, and for an actor, how great is that?

Bergman: And you have done incredible work. A lot of actors would be completely incapable of playing all of the nuances and elements with these different kinds of relationships. And with Susan, the writers are just in heaven right now.

Walters: Oh, you're being nice. Peter's our leader and he has set the bar very, very high. I've tried to get him to misbehave sometimes and it really doesn't work. He's so professional that it's annoying. I'll tell you, my husband runs lines with me and he's always triply impressed by Peter because he watches the show and he'll text, "Damn, I didn't read it *that* well. What was I missing?"

Digest: What did you each think of Jack stealing Nikki's necklace to help Diane get out from under Jeremy Stark's thumb?

[*They both start laughing.*]

Bergman: I love how quickly Jack got in over his head. Oh, man, this is not what he does.

Walters: Okay, let's admit we laughed a *lot*.

Bergman: We did laugh a lot.

Walters: The funniest part is Peter and I are sitting there cracking up and being so silly doing these scenes and there's Michael and Allison [Lanier, Summer] being very professional, as ever. And then Allison says, "You stole Grandma's necklace?" and we lost it.

Bergman: We had these two younger actors looking at us like, "Hey, pull it together."

Walters: Honest to God, I couldn't even look up and make eye contact with them in that scene.

Bergman: "You stole Grandma's necklace?"

[*They laugh.*]

Digest: What would you like to see happen with Jack and Diane in 2023?

Bergman: What I don't want to see happen is [for them to] be the happiest couple on the planet.

Walters: That won't happen.

Bergman: What I want to see happen is when we make choices, they come with all kinds of baggage. There is a lot still to uncover in all of this. They've been in different worlds and they found each other but there's a ton of stuff Diane doesn't know about Jack and he doesn't know about her.

Walters: And look, Diane's no fool. I don't think that every one of Jack's other relationships are over at this point. I don't really think about the long-term story because there's so much right in front of me, so I'm not worried. I have a feeling it'll be interesting and fun.

Bergman: My thoughts exactly.

Walters: Obviously, it's a great story for Diane, but it's been a great year for Susan getting to work with Peter. Really, honestly. Peter, you know I feel that way.

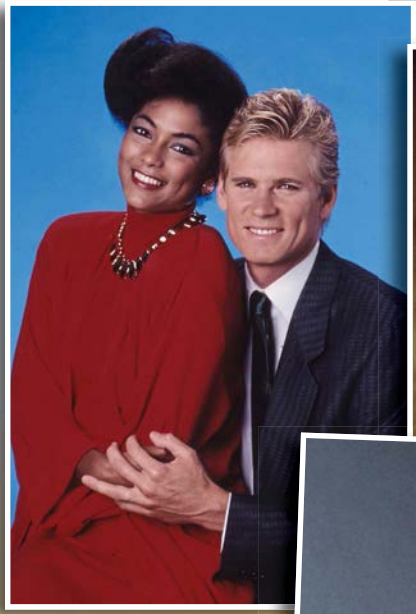
Bergman: We have that mutual admiration and I'm very grateful for it. □

THIS WEEK IN SOAP OPERA HISTORY

Digest **looks back on standout moments from the past.**

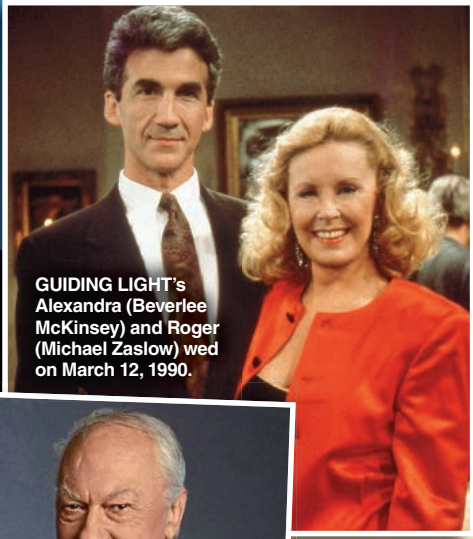
On ANOTHER WORLD, Michael (Kale Browne) and Donna (Philece Sampler) said, "I do" on March 9, 1987.

NBC



ABC PHOTO ARCHIVES

David Wallace (pictured with Laura Carrington, who played his love interest, Simone) made his GH debut as Tom Hardy on March 10, 1987.



GUIDING LIGHT's Alexandra (Beverlee McKinsey) and Roger (Michael Zaslow) wed on March 12, 1990.

CBS

COURTESY EVERETT COLLECTION

Following the real-life passing of portrayer William Roerick, Henry Chamberlain's funeral was held on GL on March 6, 1996.

ABC

On March 11, 2002, Carly (then-Tamara Braun) and Jax (Ingo Rademacher) celebrated the successful opening of their joint venture, Club 101.

GEORGE DE SOTA/JPI

AS THE WORLD TURNS's Noah (Jake Silbermann) detailed to Ameera (Tala Ashe) his plan to marry her to help her avoid deportation on March 7, 2008.

LOU ROCCO/ABC

Blair (Kassie DePaiva) clung to life on March 6, 2009 after being brutally attacked in the shower on ONE LIFE TO LIVE.

HOWARD WISE/JPI

On March 6, 2013, Y&R's Lauren (Tracey E. Bregman) was so awash in guilt over cheating on Michael with Carmine (Marco Dapper) that she ... slept with Carmine again!

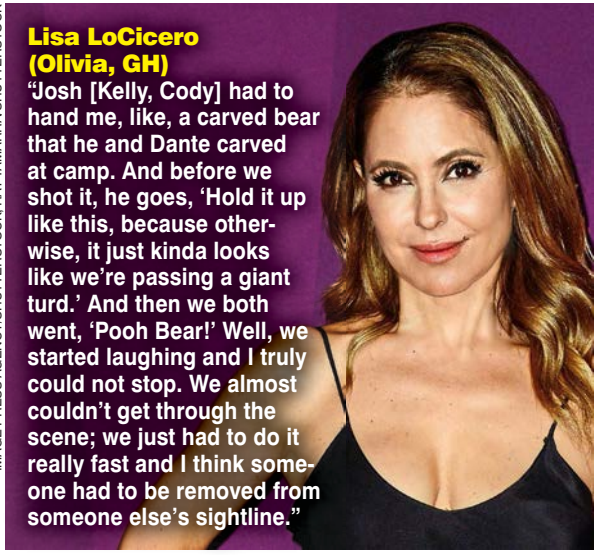
Q roundup

What was the last blo

IMAGE PRESS AGENCY/SHUTTERSTOCK; RAY TAMARRA/SHUTTERSTOCK

Raven Bowens (Chanel, DAYS)

"Sometimes there's a line that's written a certain way, and no matter how many times they reshoot the scene, it doesn't come out right. The other day I had a scene that was one page, and all I had were three lines. It was a really easy, simple scene, but for whatever reason, the words were just not coming out. They finally just had to settle for whatever it was I did say. Afterwards, Albert [Alarr, co-executive producer] said, 'Well, that was the most difficult scene of the day.' "



Lisa LoCicero (Olivia, GH)

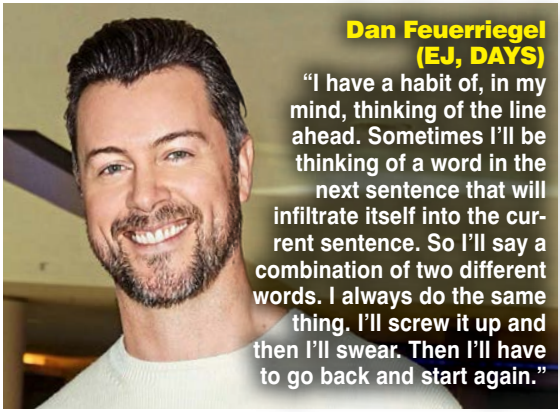
"Josh [Kelly, Cody] had to hand me, like, a carved bear that he and Dante carved at camp. And before we shot it, he goes, 'Hold it up like this, because otherwise, it just kinda looks like we're passing a giant turd.' And then we both went, 'Pooh Bear!' Well, we started laughing and I truly could not stop. We almost couldn't get through the scene; we just had to do it really fast and I think someone had to be removed from someone else's sightline."

D GUIGNEBOURG/JPI

Amelia Heinle (Victoria, Y&R)

"In one scene, I couldn't take my coat off, my arms wouldn't come out of the sleeves. Josh [Morrow, Nick] just stared at me the whole time and they kept rolling and I'm, like, still trying to get my arms out. I'm thinking, 'When are they gonna cut? Do they actually think I'll get free of this coat?' And Josh is still staring at me, even though I've got to get out of this coat before I can talk to him. Finally, they yelled, 'Cut!' "

...ooper you made on set?



Dan Feuerriegel (EJ, DAYS)
"I have a habit of, in my mind, thinking of the line ahead. Sometimes I'll be thinking of a word in the next sentence that will infiltrate itself into the current sentence. So I'll say a combination of two different words. I always do the same thing. I'll screw it up and then I'll swear. Then I'll have to go back and start again."

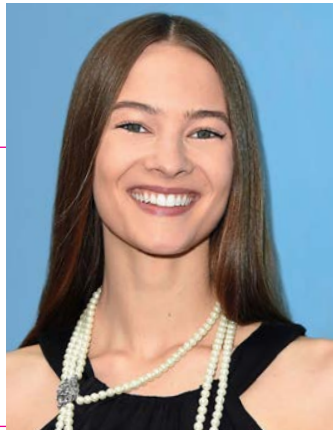
SOUL B PHOTOS/SHUTTERSTOCK; ROB LATOUR/SHUTTERSTOCK

PHOTOS: JILL JOHNSON/JPI

Annika Noelle (Hope, B&B)
"Not exactly a blooper but there is a scene where Krista [Allen, Taylor] and I were starving and we just couldn't help ourselves! We tore into the bread basket during the scene and just made it a character choice. Those Hawaiian rolls were delicious. No regrets!"

Eileen Davidson (Ashley, Y&R)
"I scooted over to Trevor [St. John, Tucker] to kiss him and they said, 'Cut!' The stage manager came over to tell me that my dress was hiked up in the back. I was like, 'Oh, great.' That's always fun to hear."

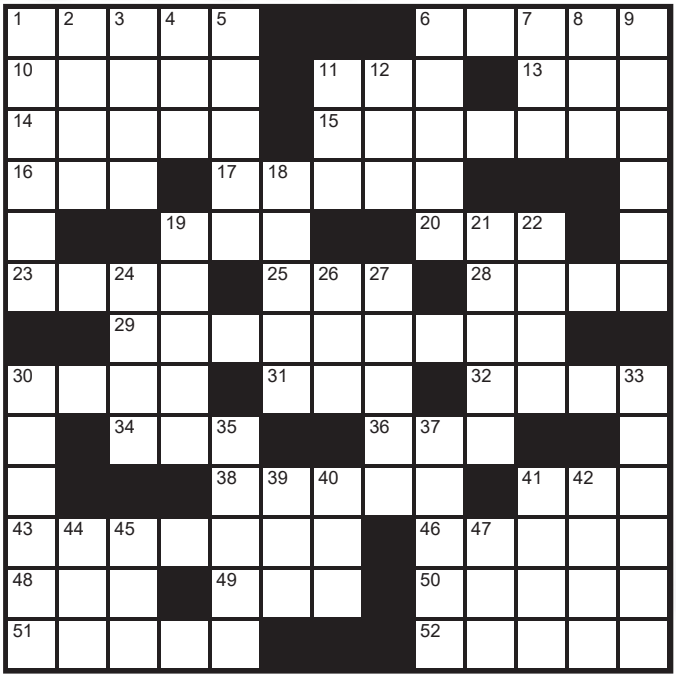
Avery Pohl (Esme, GH)
"When Esme had to set the Christmas tree on fire, I was supposed to light a match on the floor and it was not working. I probably went through about seven matches before they were like, 'Okay, somebody just stand behind her with a lighter and light this thing so we can move on.' I even tried it while the cameras weren't rolling and it wouldn't light. Then Alex in our prop department tried it once and got it to light!"



crossword

BY DONNA HOKE

STAYING POWER



ACROSS

1. Reva's daughter (GUIDING LIGHT)
6. Apple store buys
10. *Nutcracker* lead
11. Alternative to Android
13. Noninvasive diagnostic procedure, for short
14. ONE LIFE TO LIVE's Phil (47 Down)
15. *GH'S GENIE (LAURA, 1976)*
16. Part of OLTL
17. Daughter of character played by 29 Across
19. Big initials in camping
20. Communication for the deaf; abbr.
23. ALL MY CHILDREN's Erica
25. Help for checkers?
28. *DAYS'S DEIDRE (MARLENA, 1976)*
29. *GH'S LESLIE (MONICA, 1977)*
30. Greek earth goddess
31. Cries of regret, old-timey
32. New, teen or golden go-with
34. 12th graders; abbr.
36. Meds for GH's Robin
38. Tony's look-alike (DAYS)
41. Dust remover
43. *Y&R'S ERIC (VICTOR, 1980)*
46. GH's Brad (ex-Tony)
48. AS THE WORLD TURNS role for Don Hastings
49. ANOTHER WORLD role for Constance Ford
50. ELQ employee Caldwell (GH)
51. *Y&R'S MELODY THOMAS (NIKKI, 1979)*
52. Antidrug agents

DOWN

1. *B&B'S JOHN (ERIC, 1987)*
2. Quartermaine ghost (GH)
3. Pink, as a steak
4. "These ___ the days of..."
5. *DAYS'S BILL OR SUSAN SEAFORTH (DOUG AND JULIE, 1970, 1968)*
6. "_ __ _ Little Prayer" (Dionne Warwick hit, three words)
7. Cable inits.
8. Soft & ___ (Gillette product)
9. Ebert partner
11. "As __ _ care!" (two words)
12. The Magic, on scoreboards
18. GH's West (Ava)
19. THE VIEW alum Joy
21. Young hog
22. *B&B'S KATHERINE KELLY (BROOKE, 1987)*
24. JAG spin-off since 2003
26. Work at, as a trade
27. GH villain Faison
30. Surname for Carol Burnett's AMC role
33. *DAYS'S SUZANNE (MAGGIE, 1973)*
35. 1978 Peace Prize Nobelist

Answers can be found in the next issue.

sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. You can't change the digits already provided in the grid; you have to work around them.

	4		1	5		6		9
		1			6	2	7	
		2		1	5			7
9		8		2		1		5
4			8	7		9		
	9	4	5			7		
7		3		4	1		9	

37. *GH'S JACKLYN (BOBBIE, 1977)*
39. Tracy's son (GH)
40. Parental determinant; abbr.
41. Essen river
42. Baldwin of THE DOCTORS
44. *Arabian Nights* bird
45. All of the blood type letters
47. See 14 Across

ANSWERS FROM LAST ISSUE

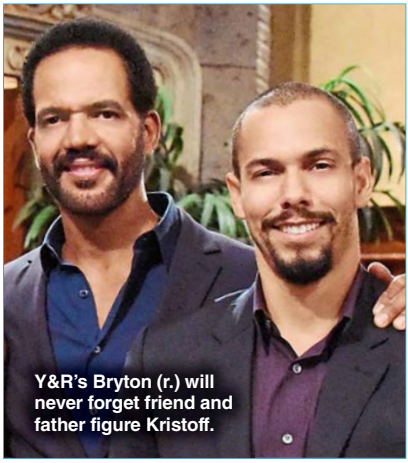
P	E	A	R	S	O	N	■	G	■	H	E	W
I	N	T	O	O	■	A	I	R	■	O	D	A
A	C	T	O	R	■	P	■	E	A	S	E	L
Z	S	A	■	E	F	S	■	T	R	E	N	T
Z	■	■	A	L	I	■	A	Z	T	■	■	O
A	L	A	N	■	N	I	C	K	■	D	O	N
■	■	N	O	L	A	N	R	Y	A	N	■	■
B	E	N	■	E	L	K	O	■	S	A	M	I
A	■	■	A	B	E	■	S	P	A	■	■	L
R	E	G	A	L	■	C	S	I	■	M	E	L
B	E	R	R	A	■	M	■	M	E	A	R	S
E	L	I	■	N	B	A	■	A	N	N	I	E
R	S	T	■	C	■	J	U	S	T	I	C	E

BEHIND the SCENES!

Scene Heard

IN SPIRIT

It's been four years since the death of **Kristoff St. John** (ex-Neil), and **Bryton James** (Devon) admits that the void left by his TV dad is just as deep as when it happened. "That was a very hard time to get through," remembers the actor. "When Kristoff passed, we all went to his funeral and it didn't feel very real and that we weren't going to see him again. When it came time to shoot Neil's funeral, all of us lost it. We were struggling throughout the entire day of filming, so not one performance you saw on that funeral episode was acting." Not surprisingly, James's beloved co-star remains a strong presence in his life. "Now, all I think about is making him proud and I try to bring the same energy, joy, levity and professionalism to the set like he did," James reflects. "I still want him to be proud of every word that comes out of my mouth. That's how I carry on and I can speak for **Christel** [**Khalil**, Lily] feeling the same way."



Y&R's Bryton (r.) will never forget friend and father figure Kristoff.

PHOTOS: HOWARD WISE/JPI

B&B's Diamond loves moonlighting as MOONGIRL.

GIRL POWER

B&B's **Diamond White** (Paris) is thrilled to be voicing the title character of Disney Channel's new animated series, MARVEL'S MOON GIRL AND DEVIL DINOSAUR. As Marvel's first Black teenage superhero, she enthuses, "It feels so beautiful. I can't even describe it. I love the message that one girl can make a difference. It's cool to be smart. It's cool to be into quantum physics. It's cool to be a great achiever. It also shows, with her family, the importance of community and love. I think it will be really sweet for many young girls to see someone like them, with the poof balls and dark skin. I actually made a list of all the things I've experienced as a Black woman and getting my first perm, and they made it into an episode where **Jennifer Hudson** is voicing my hair. It's crazy! It's not just a show about fighting crime but it's also about sleepovers and perms, so it is very personal, as well."

Betty Boop™
Sassy Sweetheart
Sherpa Jacket

Betty Boop

Crafted of Super-Soft Lightweight Sherpa That's Fully Lined in Jersey Knit

Fully Embroidered with Officially Licensed Betty Boop™ Artwork

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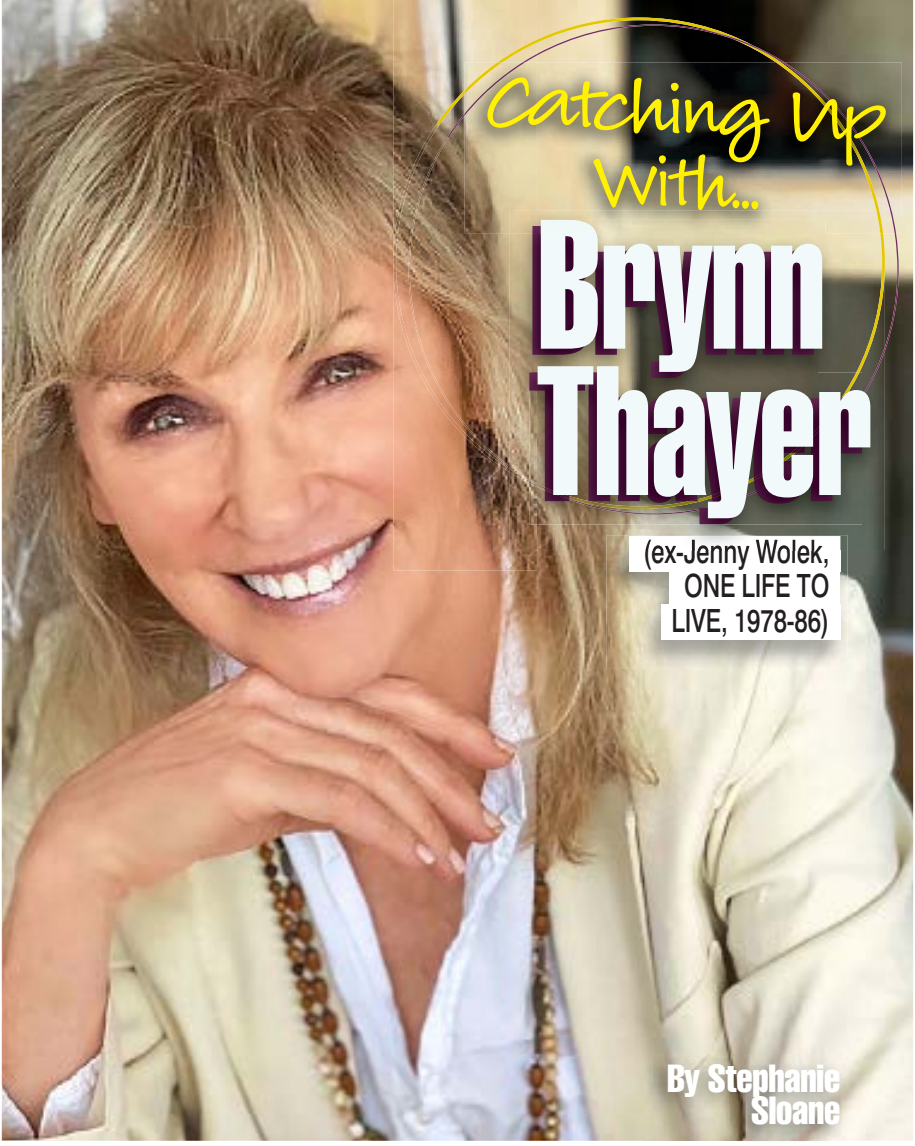


Catching Up With... Brynn Thayer

(ex-Jenny Wolek, ONE LIFE TO LIVE, 1978-86)

By Stephanie Sloane

COURTESY OF DSE PRODUCTIONS

Soap Opera Digest: You have written a play called *Let Me In*. The genesis of this project sounds pretty fascinating. How did you begin to write it?

Brynn Thayer: When I was living in New York and doing ONE LIFE TO LIVE, my roommate, who was my best friend since I was 10 — we moved from Dallas to New York together and had been there for maybe three years together — died in a car accident with her boyfriend as they were driving into New York from New Jersey. I had grandparents who passed, which I guess as a child, that's

kind of your first step into going to a funeral or losing somebody that you love. But not really for me, and not really understanding the difficulty that many of us have when a loved one passes. To say the least, I was devastated. My life changed. She was my soul mate, the person that got me to move to New York, the person that challenged me to go from being a school teacher to coming to New York, to taking a chance and seeing what else we could do in the world. She just always kind of pushed the envelope and I followed.

Digest: That's unbelievable. How did you cope at the time?

Thayer: So, I had the soap opera, thank heavens. I didn't know everybody very well at the time that she died because I had just gotten on the soap, but it was an extraordinary group of people. I didn't know what the heck I was doing because I'd never really acted before. I'd done TV commercials, but that was the extent of my acting ability. I just got the job on ONE LIFE TO LIVE because I looked similar to the actress that they had to replace. And so those actors were really my teachers: Judith Light [ex-Karen], Steve Fletcher [ex-Brad], Erika Slezak [ex-Viki], Tony George [ex-Will], all these fabulous actors who had extensive acting backgrounds and they just shared all of their knowledge with me and got me through those first couple of years and were my teachers. But they were also the people that got me through those first stages of losing a loved one. And it was pretty remarkable. So that accident changed my life and I had always kind of had this story in my head.

Digest: So when did you write the play?

Thayer: I'd written a little bit. I wrote a one-woman show and that was also about death; death is my go-to subject. I wrote a couple of short films that were based on my experiences. I started taking writing classes to learn about writing, and I've been in a lot of acting classes because I knew that I needed to learn about acting if I was going to be an actor. I had learned to be a school teacher and not an actor. So I started reading plays and putting up scenes and working with other actors and that was kind of my school. I joined another acting class about a year ago and I thought, "Well, if I'm going to join this class, let me finish this play that I've wanted to write, and use the other actors in the class to work on it with me. Who knows how much time I have left to be doing stuff like this?" So that, in fact, did happen. I used some actors in our class, and I realized that yes, I do have a piece here that I think could be interesting. I finished it and I decided to just put it up. I got Jorge Garcia [ex-Hurley, LOST], who is a wonderful actor, to be one of the three characters, and then these two other great characters that are married to each other, who have this wonderful chemistry and are crazy-good. It is the most fun I've ever had. I'm just loving it. So it's based on a lot of my truth, a lot of things that did happen to me, but of course, I've exaggerated some of them, about going through a death and how we all do it differently, how we grieve, how we figure out how to get through the loss, how we avoid it, how we do things to mask it, how we navigate it. So it's these three different characters, and I think each one is a part of me and how I dealt with death and continue to deal with death and the questions that I have about death, and it's that universal thing that we're all bonded by. It's a dark comedy and that's the way I want it to be, I want it to be really funny. I feel like you kind of get the message of something if it's based in funny as opposed to preaching. So I've tried to make it as funny as possible and the actors just have made it even better than I wrote it.

Digest: What was the process like for you once you actually went through examining what happened to you after the loss of your friend?

Thayer: It was really good. I have pictures of my girlfriend all over the place and that's been over 40 years, but I feel like she's still in my life. I love to write dialogue and peo-

KATHY HUTCHINS/SHUTTERSTOCK

Friends Till The End: Thayer became close friends with Judith Light (ex-Karen) back in their OLTL days (here with Sammy Davis, Jr., ex-Chip), and she was on hand when Light got her star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 2019.

ple talking back and forth and having crazy conversations, so somehow when I'm writing, I don't want to get too hokey about it, but I start channeling them and just writing down what I think they should be saying at the time. And I walk away from it every once in a while because I maybe get stuck or I'm not sure what I'm trying to say, but then you always come back to it. I have found if you just keep muscling through, you'll find the gold.

Digest: You are not acting in this production, but are the writer/director/producer. What has it been like to wear all those hats?

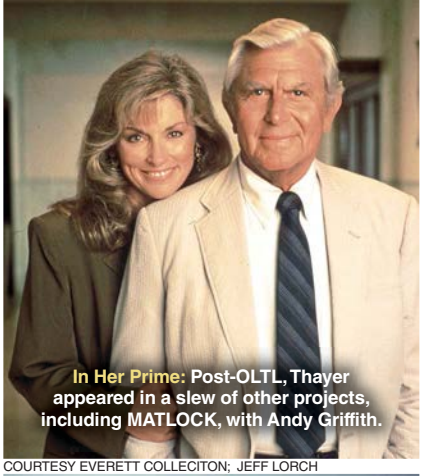
Thayer: I have loved figuring out what the set is and working with the set designer, who's so much fun, and creating this apartment in New York — the kind of New York apartment that I always wanted to live in myself. There's so many things that come up that I never really considered before. I'm working with the lighting designer and the sound guy, who are just another two very creative people that read the play and loved it. They said, "I want to do this," and I wanted people, of course, that got the play and that enjoyed reading it. So they brought great things to it. I had a teacher years ago, Milton Katselas, who said to us in the class at one time, "Always put music in your scene, in your plays, and always make your characters dance, if at all possible." For some reason, that's really stuck with me. So I have fun dancing, I have great music. They're grieving, they have alcohol, they talk about really tough subjects, they talk about dying, and if you should be in charge of your own death, and being a caregiver if somebody is sick, but it's all done around comedy. It's a very emotional play, too, though.

Digest: Are you still acting?

Thayer: I still love to act so that's why I'm always in class because you get a chance, even though you might not have a job, you still get a chance to act on stage in a class and learn more about acting and how you can be better. I just did a couple of episodes of this new show that's coming out, FATAL ATTRACTION, a remake of the movie. That was my latest acting job. I did a film also about death called *Good Grief*, which should be out fairly soon. Before that, I did some episodes of SUITS and it was such a good show.

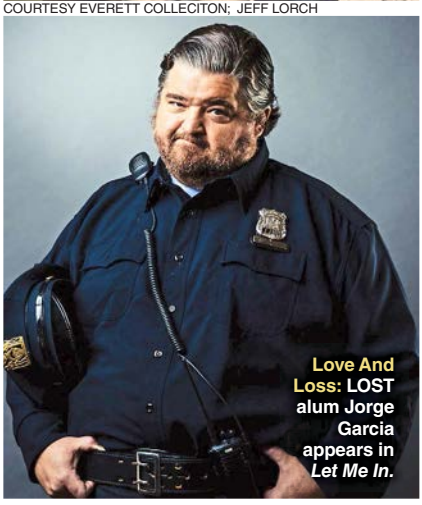
Digest: Looking back on your ONE LIFE experience, what stands out to you the most?

Thayer: Definitely the other actors. Those are some of the best days of our lives; we all loved it. I'm still in touch with several



In Her Prime: Post-OLTL, Thayer appeared in a slew of other projects, including MATLOCK, with Andy Griffith.

COURTESY EVERETT COLLECITON; JEFF LORCH



Love And Loss: LOST alum Jorge Garcia appears in *Let Me In.*

of those actors and we just had a ball. I mean, we were living in New York, we were working four days a week at least. We had an incredible head writer, Gordon Russell, who wrote storylines that lasted three years and there were other stories going along with it and he was just so wonderful at doing that. It was great. I loved every minute. It was all that camaraderie that we got to have in those days, and we were a bunch of people that really, really liked each other. It was my first job, so I didn't know any different. I just knew I was in a really special place.

Digest: Who are you still in touch with?

Thayer: Judith and I are very close, so we make time for each other a lot. She is one of those special human beings; her name says who she is. She is really light. She's so smart about people and life. She's a teacher of life and she's funny and she's goofy and just a great friend. I still see Julia Montgomery, who played Samantha. I keep in touch with Steve Fletcher, who played Brad. Those are my top three.

Digest: Could you ever have imagined when you started on the soap that you would make these lifelong bonds?

Thayer: I am so thankful. When I came on, Judith was rooming with the girl I replaced, so then of course, they put me in that same room, so Judith and I became dressing roommates and oh, my God, how lucky was I? I was a big soap fan. I watched ONE LIFE TO LIVE and ALL MY CHILDREN, so I was calling everybody by their character name because it was so embedded in me. I had to switch over now that I was acting and call them by their real name.

Digest: Was that trippy then, when you first went on stage?

Thayer: Oh, yes! It was like, "What am I doing here?" It was dream-like and I was wearing a nurse's outfit and then crossing myself in front of candles at a Catholic church as the nun. It was great.

Digest: Are you recognized as Jenny still?

Thayer: Very little. People recognize my voice more than my face.

Digest: Would you go back to daytime if asked?

Thayer: I'm sure I would. I'm certainly not as quick as I used to be, so I really admire those people that are doing it now because they do it very quickly, it seems. □

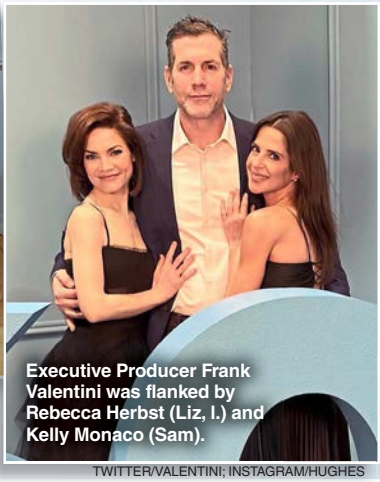
Let Me In *will run at Theatre 68 Arts Complex – The Rosalie, 5112 Lankershim Blvd., North Hollywood, CA, through April 2, on Saturdays and Sundays. Ticket prices are $35. For more, go to www.theatre68artscomplex.com or call (818) 691-3001.*

PICTURE *Perfect*

Behind-the-scenes pics from GH's new cast photo shoot

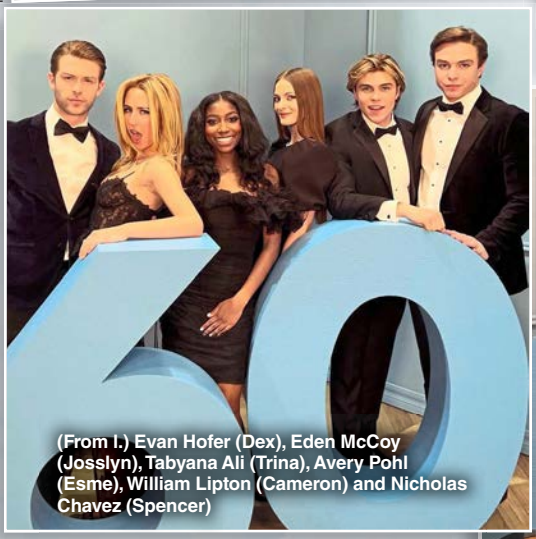
PHOTOS: INSTAGRAM/GENERALHOSPITALABC

(From far l.) Katelyn MacMullen (Willow), Lynn Herring (Lucy), Lexi Ainsworth (Kristina), Genie Francis (Laura), Nancy Lee Grahn (Alexis) and Sofia Mattsson (Sasha)



Executive Producer Frank Valentini was flanked by Rebecca Herbst (Liz, l.) and Kelly Monaco (Sam).

TWITTER/VALENTINI; INSTAGRAM/HUGHES



TWITTER/MCOOY

(From l.) Evan Hofer (Dex), Eden McCoy (Josslyn), Tabyana Ali (Trina), Avery Pohl (Esme), William Lipton (Cameron) and Nicholas Chavez (Spencer)

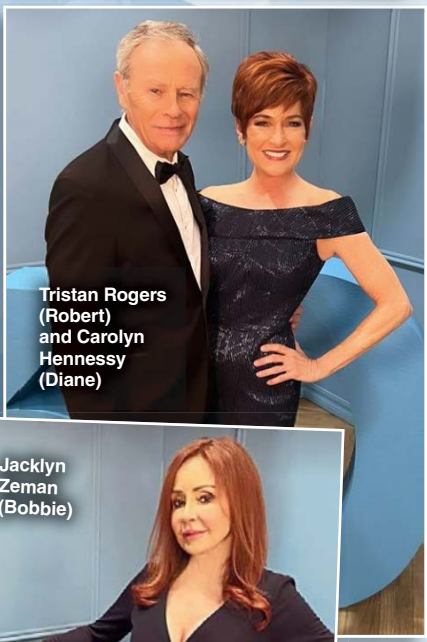
Finola Hughes (Anna) and Jon Lindstrom (Kevin)

Cynthia Watros (Nina, l.) and Kathleen Gati (Obrecht)

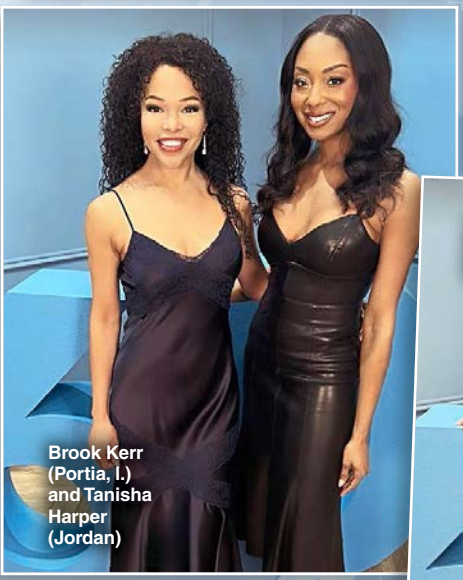
INSTAGRAM/GATI

Maura West (Ava) and McCoy

TWITTER/MCCOY



Tristan Rogers (Robert) and Carolyn Hennessy (Diane)



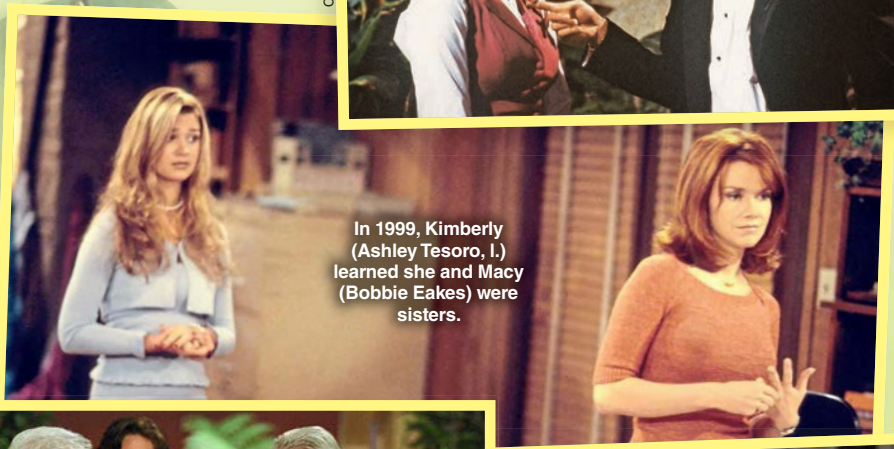
Brook Kerr (Portia, l.) and Tanisha Harper (Jordan)

Jacklyn Zeman (Bobbie)

THE TIDES OF Bold & Beautiful

In 1987, star-crossed lovers Brooke (Katherine Kelly Lang) and Ridge (then-Ronn Moss) met.

CBS

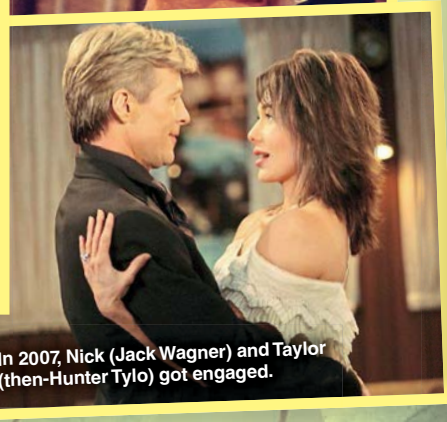


In 1999, Kimberly (Ashley Tesoro, l.) learned she and Macy (Bobbie Eakes) were sisters.

PHOTOS: AARON MONTGOMERY/JPI

JESSE GRANT/JPI

Eric (John McCook) and Stephanie (Susan Flannery) wed again in 2003.



In 2007, Nick (Jack Wagner) and Taylor (then-Hunter Tylo) got engaged.

March

Memorable moments on each show from the month of March.

CBS • CBS • CBS

Bridget (Ashley Jones) and Owen (Brandon Beemer) trysted in 2010 — resulting in a son, Logan.

SEAN SMITH/JPI

In 2015, Nicole's (Reign Edwards, l.) arrival prompted the reveal that her big sister Maya (Karla Mosley) was transgender.

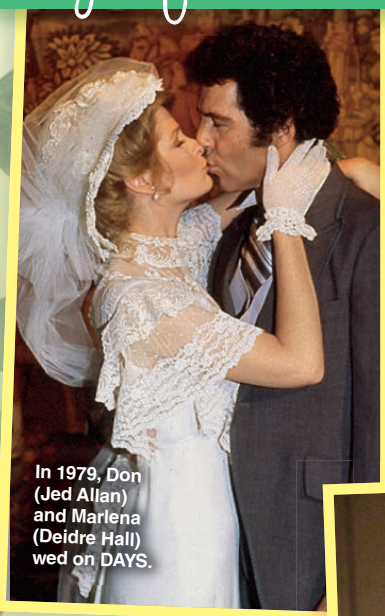
SEAN SMITH/JPI

Liam (Scott Clifton) and Steffy (Jacqueline MacInnes Wood) wed in Australia in 2017, with family and friends present.

Taylor shot Bill (Don Diamont) in the back in 2018.

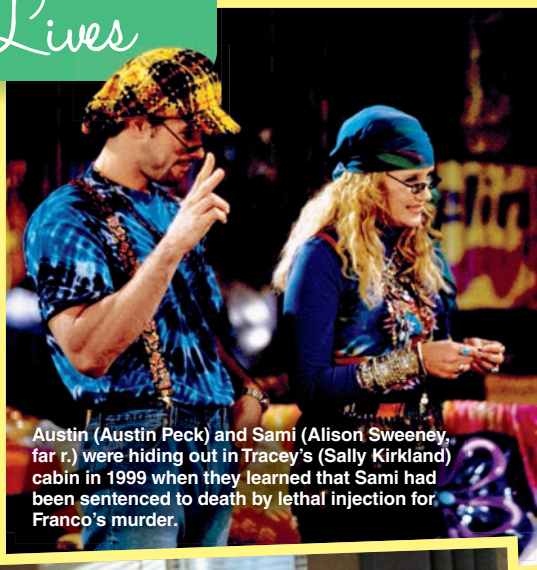
SEAN SMITH/COURTESY OF BELL-PHILLIP TELEVISION INC.; HOWARD WISE/JPI

Days of Our Lives

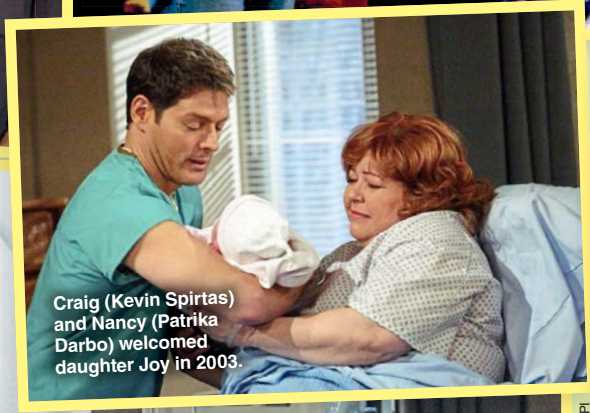


In 1979, Don (Jed Allan) and Marlena (Deidre Hall) wed on DAYS.

NBC



Austin (Austin Peck) and Sami (Alison Sweeney, far r.) were hiding out in Tracey's (Sally Kirkland) cabin in 1999 when they learned that Sami had been sentenced to death by lethal injection for Franco's murder.



Craig (Kevin Spirtas) and Nancy (Patrika Darbo) welcomed daughter Joy in 2003.

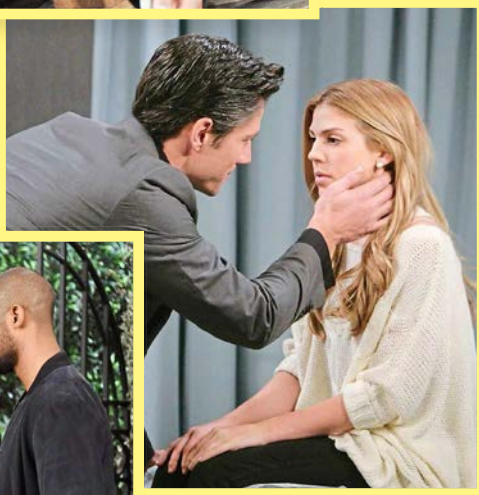
Bo (Peter Reckell, r., with Shawn Christian as Daniel) underwent a pancreas transplant in 2008.

PHOTOS: PAUL SKIPPER/JPI

AARON MONTGOMERY/JPI

Tony (Thaao Penghlis) died in 2009 after a fight with Philip on the pier — but was revealed to be alive a decade later.

Abigail (Kate Mansi) was greatly relieved in 2014 when she found out she was not pregnant with EJ's (then-James Scott) baby.

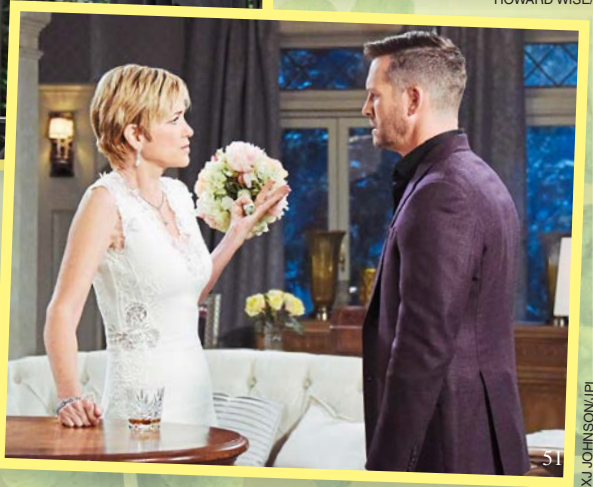


HOWARD WISE/JPI

XJ JOHNSON/JPI

In 2017, Eli (Lamon Archey) told Julie (Susan Seaforth Hayes) that he is her grandson.

Eve (Kassie DePaiva) dumped Brady (Eric Martsolf) on their wedding day in 2018.



XJ JOHNSON/JPI

General Hospital

Blackie (John Stamos, r.) heard bellhop Josh's (James McNichol) original song, "Make Me Believe It" — which he went on to steal — for the first time in 1984.

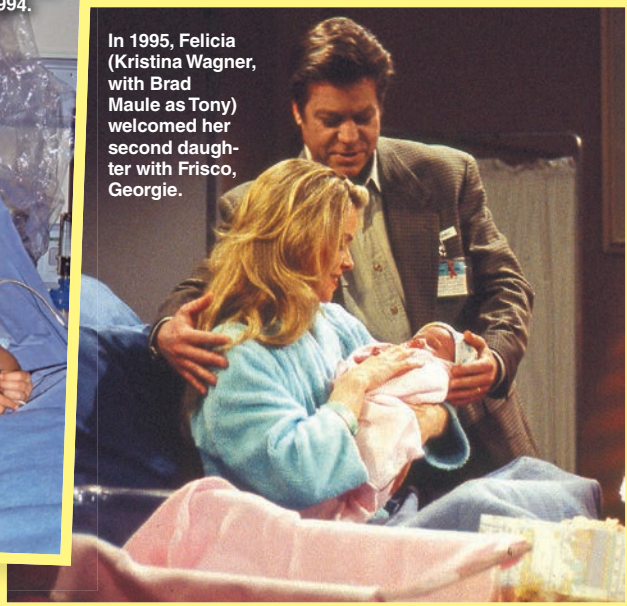
ABC PHOTO ARCHIVES

Casey (Bradley Lockerman), an alien from the planet Lumina, touched down in Port Charles in 1990.

JERRY FITZGERALD/ABC

Maxie (then-Robyn Richards) was diagnosed with Kawasaki Syndrome in 1994.

JIM WARREN



In 1995, Felicia (Kristina Wagner, with Brad Maule as Tony) welcomed her second daughter with Frisco, Georgie.

CATHY BLAIVAS/ABC

It was good news/bad news for Alexis (Nancy Lee Grahn) in 2003; she was acquitted of Luis Alcazar's murder, but Ned (Wally Kurth) was awarded custody of baby Kristina.

SCOTT GARFIELD/ABC

In 2007, Elizabeth (Rebecca Herbst) and Lucky (Greg Vaughan) remarried.

RON TOM/ABC

Todd (Roger Howarth, r.) held Sonny (Maurice Benard) at gunpoint in 2012, convinced that Sonny was responsible for the deaths of his granddaughter, Hope, and Hope's father, Cole.

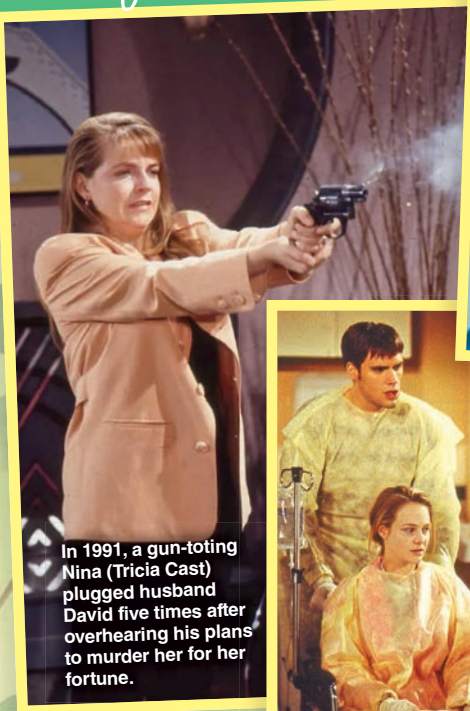
RICK ROWELL/ABC

In 2017, Anna (Finola Hughes, far r.) interrupted Olivia Jerome's (Tonja Walker) attempt to use Griffin's (Matt Cohen) body as a vessel to resurrect Duke.

HOWARD WISE/JPI

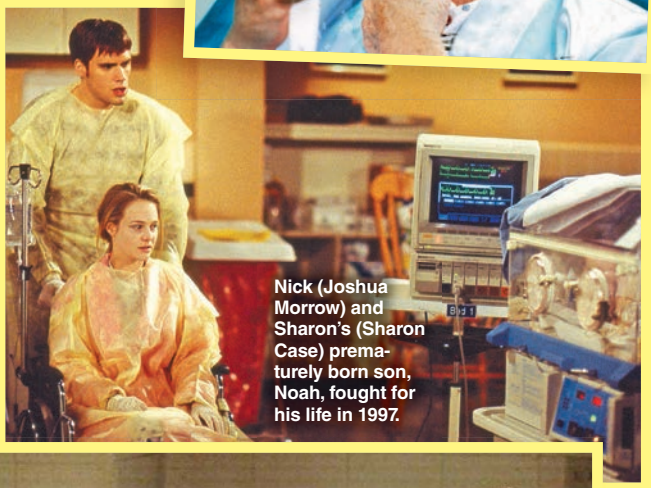
Young & Restless

PHOTOS: CBS



In 1991, a gun-toting Nina (Tricia Cast) plugged husband David five times after overhearing his plans to murder her for her fortune.

In 1984, Katherine (Jeanne Cooper) beheld the results of her face-lift.



Nick (Joshua Morrow) and Sharon's (Sharon Case) prematurely born son, Noah, fought for his life in 1997.

In 2004, Detective Weber (Sherman Augustus, l.) arrested Kevin (Greg Rikaart) on charges relating to Brittany's electrocution.

AARON MONTGOMERY/JPI; JOHN PASCHAL CELEBRITY PHOTO

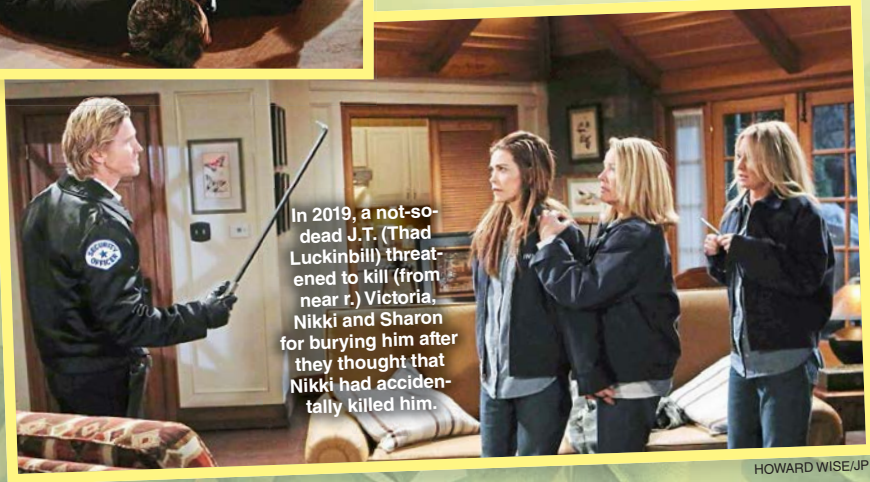
In 2005, Drucilla (Victoria Rowell) finally got confirmation via a DNA test that Malcolm (Shemar Moore), not Neil, was Lily's biological father.

After six years of marriage, Brad (Don Diamont) and Ashley's (Eileen Davidson) divorce was finalized in 2006.

BRIAN LOWE/JPI; HOWARD WISE/JPI

AARON MONTGOMERY/JPI

In 2013, Adam (then-Michael Muhney) took a bullet meant for Victor (Eric Braeden) at Victor's wedding to Nikki (Melody Thomas Scott, second from top) as Victoria (Amelia Heinle) looked on helplessly.



In 2019, a not-so-dead J.T. (Thad Luckinbill) threatened to kill (from near r.) Victoria, Nikki and Sharon for burying him after they thought that Nikki had accidentally killed him.

HOWARD WISE/JPI

calendar events

Jersey Boys: Meet GH's Josh Swickard (Chase, l.) and Michael Easton (Finn) in NJ.

STEVEN BERGMAN

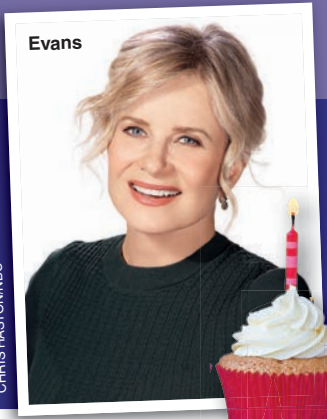
Who: DAYS's Carson Boatman (Johnny), Dan Feuerriegel (EJ), Billy Flynn (Chad), Leann Hunley (Anna), Eric Martsolf (Brady), Thaao Penghlis (Tony), Greg Rikaart (Leo; Kevin, Y&R), and Zach Tinker (ex-Sonny)
What: DAYS event
When: Sat.-Sun., April 15-16
Where: Hyatt Regency, 3 Speedwell Avenue, Morristown, NJ
How: Various ticket packages, including sponsorships, can be purchased at starstruckfanevents.com.

Who: DAYS's Brandon Barash (Stefan), Boatman, Wally Kurth (Justin; Ned, GH) and Martsolf
What: The Day Players show
When: Sun., Apr. 23
Where: The Comedy Vault, 18 E. Wilson Street, Batavia, IL
How: Tickets are $125 for VIP and $55 for general admission and can be purchased at coastalentertainment.com/events.

Who: GH's Michael Easton (Finn) and Josh Swickard (Chase)
What: Personal Appearance
When: Sat., Jun. 3
Where: Stress Factory, 90 Church Street, New Brunswick, NJ
How: Tickets are $99 for VIP and $49 for general admission and can be purchased at coastalentertainment.com/events.

Who: GH's Tabyana Ali (Trina) and Nicholas Chavez (Spencer)
What: Personal Appearance
When: Sun., Jun. 4
Where: Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle, 310 S. Troy Street, Royal Oak, MI
How: Tickets are $85 for VIP and $49 for general admission and can be purchased at coastal entertainment.com/events.

birthdays


Evans

CHRIS HASTON/NBC

Jacklyn Zeman
(Bobbie, GH) 3/6

Mary Beth Evans
(Kayla, DAYS) 3/7

Lauren Koslow
(Kate, DAYS) 3/9

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bold and beautiful

HEART AND SOUL

Deacon texts Sheila, who recalls the harsh words she said to him. Bill arrives and believes Sheila is upset about missing Finn and Hayes. Sheila apologizes to Bill for being distant and is grateful he's unaware she's thinking of Deacon. Sheila and Bill kiss, and she asserts that he is her heart and soul and that she will never forget what he has done for her. Then they part ways to take care of their own business.

HAVING IT ALL

Hope arrives at Il Giardino, distracting Deacon from his thoughts of Sheila. She asks if he knows about Brooke's date with Hollis. Deacon assures Hope that Brooke made it clear to Hollis that she's not ready for anything serious. When Hope asks if that gives Deacon hope for another chance with Brooke, Deacon replies that he has moved on. Hope wonders if there is a new woman in her father's life. Hope then gushes about Deacon's upcoming grand opening. She promises to spread the word and invite everyone. Hope states that all Deacon needs is a soul mate, and then he'll have it all.

RETURN TO SENDER

At Forrester, Steffy and Finn worry about Sheila being free and continue to think of ways to put her back in prison. Hope arrives at the office and joins the conversation with Finn and Steffy about Sheila. Deacon comes up, and Steffy and Finn reiterate that they are grateful to him for saving their lives.

GRAND GESTURE

Sheila visits Deacon at Il Giardino. He pushes her to attend the grand opening, but she declines, stating it is too risky. Deacon maintains that Sheila is fighting her feelings for him to save her freedom, but Sheila stands her ground and insists that she won't be attending the Il Giardino grand opening. Deacon and Sheila recognize that they can't associate with each other to protect what they both have. They wish each other well and share a bittersweet good-bye.

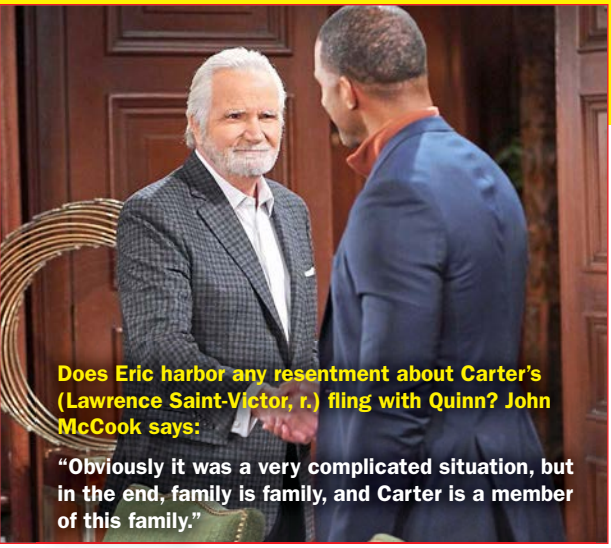
TRUST ISSUES

Liam admonishes Bill for blackmailing Steffy and Finn, but Bill does not see an issue. Bill and Liam argue, and Bill cautions Liam that his relationship with Sheila is none of his business.

flashback to 2015

In With The New: HFTF was canceled to make way for Steffy's (Jacqueline MacInnes Wood, l.) California Freedom line, with Maya (Karla Mosley) as its spokesmodel.

SEAN SMITH/JPI



Does Eric harbor any resentment about Carter's (Lawrence Saint-Victor, r.) fling with Quinn? John McCook says:

"Obviously it was a very complicated situation, but in the end, family is family, and Carter is a member of this family."

HOWARD WISE/JPI

WHAT WILL HAPPEN

- Taylor urges Brooke to consider Thomas's sincere apology.
- Brooke remains guarded when it comes to Thomas.
- Liam is shocked by a recent turn of events.

Wyatt joins in and takes a few jabs at Bill. Wyatt pleads with his father to see that Sheila cannot be trusted.

SIBLING REVELRY

Taylor attempts to help a stressed-out Steffy. Thomas arrives, and Taylor admits she invited him to help work through their sibling issues. Taylor mediates between Steffy and Thomas.

OFFICE HOURS

Carter arrives at work to find a gift and a note from the Forresters, celebrating his 10 years with Forrester Creations.

Steffy tells Finn that the Hope For The Future line is not doing well, and she knows that is a direct result of Thomas not being a part of the team.

Later, Eric and Carter join in the conversation. Hope arrives and is shocked to hear they all feel the line is in big trouble. Hope questions if her fashion line is about to be canceled. Hope attempts to fight for her line, but Steffy explains why they must pause it.

VISITING HOURS

Li visits Finn with the news of a possible job promotion at the hospital.... Liam stops by to see Deacon, and the two discuss Hope's current challenges.... Thomas expresses his gratitude to Taylor for her support.

TRY, TRY AGAIN

Bill confesses his feelings to Sheila. Sheila becomes displeased when Liam arrives and leaves.

Liam again attempts to persuade Bill to leave Sheila and expresses concern for his dad. Bill refuses to acknowledge the truth when Liam guarantees that Sheila is not who he thinks she is.

Sheila returns to Deacon's and admits that she misses him.

ROLE REVERSAL

Hope is stunned by Steffy's reversal about wanting to give Thomas another chance. Taylor reveals her part in getting Steffy and Thomas back on the same page. Steffy assures Hope that the decision to rehire Thomas as lead designer on the Hope For The Future line is hers alone. Thomas gives an impassioned speech to Hope, Taylor and Steffy. □

days of our lives

BODY AND SOUL

Roman is shocked to learn that Anna told Paulina about the plot to murder Orpheus. Paulina assures Roman that she didn't spill the news to Abe. While Roman checks on a delivery, Paulina is shocked when Kate speaks to her through the urn. Paulina tells Kate that Orpheus is alive. Paulina then fills in Roman about her chat.

Jake lobbies Nick to release the women's souls. Nick shocks everyone by allowing Kate, Kayla and Marlena to return to their earthly bodies.

At the lab, Megan Hathaway releases Marlena, Kayla and Kate from the cryogenic chambers. She informs them that their loved ones think they are dead, and hints at her devious plans for the three women.

John and Steve talk to Tony and Anna and deduce that the DiMera who stole the orchid must be Megan. Tony and Anna point out that Megan's dead. John and Steve correct them and relay what happened last summer.

BABY ON BOARD

Sarah confronts Xander about stealing *The Spectator* away from Jack and Jennifer. She accurately surmises he and Gwen used blackmail to get their hands on the newspaper. Sarah suddenly becomes ill and rushes to the bathroom. Later, she reels after a test at the hospital confirms she's pregnant. Rex stops by to see Sarah but finds an inquisitive Maggie instead. She knows Sarah and Rex slept together and wants to know what Rex's intentions are concerning her daughter. Rex reveals he's there to offer Sarah a job at his hospital back in Chicago. Later, Rex learns Sarah is pregnant. Meanwhile, Gwen and Xander finally discuss their romantic and professional standing. After, Xander learns there's a problem with his divorce from Sarah.

IT'S A LIVING

Wendy asks Tripp to move in with her because she needs roommates, and Tripp has decided to stay in Salem.

QUARTER FLASH

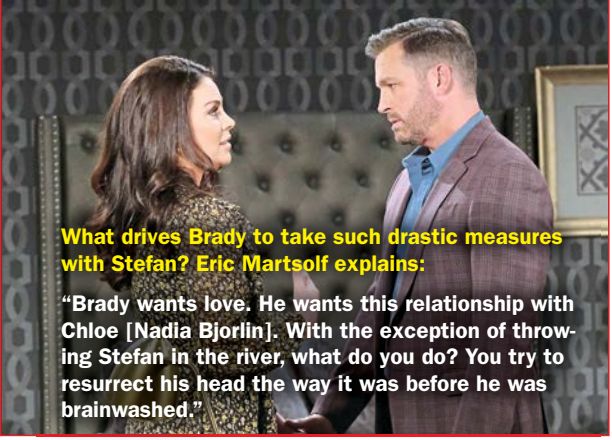
Nicole joins Abe and Paulina for breakfast, and Nicole realizes it's been 25 years since she first met Eric. Nicole tells Paulina about their love story. Later, Nicole is still thinking about Eric when she runs into him in the park and they share a warm moment.

FREEDOM FIGHTER

Rafe pressures Li to confess his crimes against Stefan. Sloan arrives and reveals that Trask agreed that Rolf's confession is inadmissible, given that

Dirty Work: A very-much-alive Megan (Miranda Wilson) brainwashed Steve (Stephen Nichols, l.) and John (Drake Hogestyn) to secure the prisms she needed to cure Bo.

PHOTOS: XJ. JOHNSON/JPI



What drives Brady to take such drastic measures with Stefan? Eric Martsolf explains:

"Brady wants love. He wants this relationship with Chloe [Nadia Bjorlin]. With the exception of throwing Stefan in the river, what do you do? You try to resurrect his head the way it was before he was brainwashed."

WHAT WILL HAPPEN

- Jack and Jennifer head back to Boston.
- Justin has surprising news for Xander.
- Maggie has a big announcement.

Eric misrepresented himself as her paralegal to obtain it. Rafe has no choice but to cut Li lose.

Gabi runs into Chloe, who has returned to Salem. Gabi mentions that since nothing has changed with Stefan, she has decided to stay married to Li in exchange for control of his DiMera shares. Li arrives and announces that he has been released without charge. Gabi is bummed and realizes that she and Li will have to find a place to live. Later, they show up at Wendy's place with their bags.

IN WITH THE NEW

Brady presses Rolf to continue to deprogram Stefan, who implores the men to let him go. Stefan passes out during the procedure, but they revive him. Rafe shows up. Rolf escapes and is lured away by Sloan's promise that Li will give him refuge and a lab he needs for his work. Rafe arrests Brady, then Eric, for kidnapping Stefan.

Stefan visits Chloe, who says she wants nothing more to do with him. As they're talking, it dawns on Stefan that he no longer has feelings for Chloe. Stefan rushes off to tell Gabi and happens to overhear Joey and Tripp saying that Gabi has moved into Wendy's apartment. Meanwhile, Chloe finds Brady in police custody, and tells him the "unbrainwashing" worked on Stefan. Brady is delighted.

Li, Gabi and Wendy discuss their roommate arrangements. Li reluctantly agrees to sleep on the sofa. Stefan arrives and professes his feelings for Gabi. Li informs a shocked Stefan that he and Gabi have a contract to remain married and cohabit for six months.

Joey thinks Tripp has the upper hand over Johnny with Wendy now that they're living together. Meanwhile, Johnny is shocked to learn from Chanel that Allie moved to New Zealand without saying good-bye to him.

DRUG TEST

EJ tells Nicole that he had the contents of the vial analyzed. It contained a drug that would have caused the symptoms they experienced, and Stefan's prints were on it. EJ decides to let Stefan think he's continuing to poison him, but he plans to give Stefan a taste of his own medicine.

OFF YOU GO

Leo reveals to Alex and Stephanie that he is writing a new gossip column for *The Spectator* and asks if the gossip that Alex broke up Chanel and Allie is true. Alex inadvertently confirms Leo's scoop. Alex tries to explain his actions to Stephanie, who coolly lets him off the hook. Later, Alex learns from Maggie that Victor isn't naming his grandnephew the new CEO after all.

Chad, Justin, Alex and Stephanie meet up to say heartfelt good-byes to Sonny. □

general hospital

INTO THE WOODS

Esme stumbles into Wyndemere and is stunned when Heather identifies herself as Esme's mother. In the woods, Mac shoots Ryan dead. En route to G.H. for treatment for shock, Ava encounters Trina and Spencer, who have just learned about the Esme/Heather connection and that Heather is The Hook. Ava reports that Ryan is dead, news that Alexis absorbs with interest. Ava also informs Felicia of Ryan's fate. Back on Spoon Island, the PCPD nabs Heather, and Kevin delivers Esme's son. Spencer arrives to meet his baby brother. Kevin says a final goodbye to his twin.

I MUST CONFESS

Finn again voices his misgivings to Liz about her coming clean to the cops. She tells Scott everything. Liz briefs Cameron on the latest developments with Esme, then heads to the station, where Scott secures an immunity deal for her. Liz makes a full confession, prompting Dante and Jordan to realize how urgently they need to track down Nikolas. Liz returns to work, grateful for the support she's received from Scott and Finn. She comes face-to-face with a vengeful Obrecht.

THE SECRET STORM

Taggert goes to see Portia and she is pleasantly surprised when he shows her compassion.... Curtis calls out Jordan for not telling him about her suspicions regarding Trina's paternity, then goes to see Trina, who shuts him down when he proposes conducting a DNA test.... Portia owns up to her mistakes in a heart-to-heart with Jordan.

ENEMY LINES

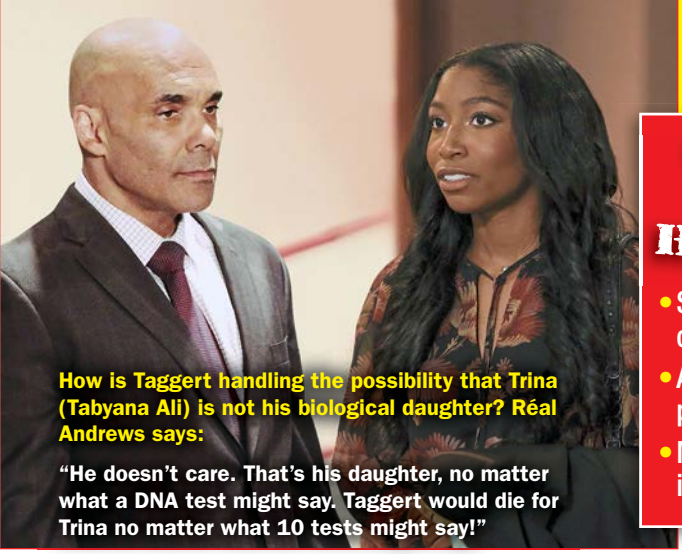
Back at home to live out her final days, Willow breaks down in Carly's arms. Michael nixes helping to facilitate a Nina/Willow reunion. Sonny seeks Brook Lynn's help to set up a conversation for him and Michael. Nina warns Drew that if he sides with Carly, he becomes her enemy. Josslyn confronts Dex after overhearing him discuss the Sonny/Pikeman deal. He cops

flashback to 2016

Familiar Territory: Franco (Roger Howarth) dropped in on his mother, Heather (then-Robin Mattson), at the D'Archam Asylum for the criminally insane.

XJ JOHNSON/JPI

XJ JOHNSON/JPI; CHRISTINE BARTOLUCCI/ABC



How is Taggert handling the possibility that Trina (Tabyana Ali) is not his biological daughter? Réal Andrews says:

"He doesn't care. That's his daughter, no matter what a DNA test might say. Taggert would die for Trina no matter what 10 tests might say!"

WHAT WILL HAPPEN

- Sasha wants to clear the air.
- Alexis is perplexed.
- Maxie fishes for info.

to trying to take Sonny down, but doesn't disclose that he's working with Michael. Joss wrestles with her conflicted feelings about Dex possibly sending Sonny to jail and makes peace with the fact that it's the only way to ensure Dex's safety.

ACE FORWARD

Sonny offers his support to Ava, and arranges for Spencer to hold the baby, who Esme names Ace. Ava fills Spencer in on what Ryan told her before he died; Spencer is hurt to learn that Esme was using him all along. He blames himself for driving Nikolas away, stoking Ava's guilty conscience. Laura lets Spencer vent his feelings and delivers an emotional pep talk, reminding Spencer that Ace needs him.

FAMILY FEUD

Sasha confronts her husband's killer and succeeds in badgering Heather into a confession. Heather gives her story to Dante and Jordan. Mac checks her account against Esme's, who struggles with the news that both of her parents are murderers. Heather pleads her case to Esme, who wants nothing to do with her. As she's carted off to D'Archam, Heather lashes out at Laura and vows that Port Charles will see her again. Spencer spits to Esme that she'll never be capable of being a parent.

LIFE GOES ON

Obrecht and Nina anxiously await word on whether Obrecht is a donor match for Willow. Sasha meets up with Michael and Willow to help them plan their wedding. Sasha holds onto the gift from Nina that Willow rejected, hopeful that Willow will live long enough to reconcile with her mother.

SEARCH AND DESTROY

From his hospital bed, Austin frets that with cops swarming Spoon Island, he and Ava will get busted. Ava covers when Mac questions her about why Austin was on Spoon Island and panics when she realizes that Liz went to the cops. She warns Austin that they have to move Nikolas's body immediately. Austin checks out of G.H. and heads to Wyndemere with Ava, but before they are able to relocate Nik's remains, Dante arrives — with a search warrant. □

young and restless

ON YOUR OWN

At Crimson Lights, Stark accuses Chance of being used by Jack to set him up for a crime that he did not commit.

Diane discovers a mysterious package that she believes is from Jeremy; Chance later warns Diane and Jack against trying to handle things with Stark on their own. After Chance leaves, Jack suggests that he and Diane go on a romantic getaway to hide from Stark.

TALK IT OUT

Devon tells Abby that he needs to focus on getting his company back before trying to mend his relationship with Lily.

Nate informs Elena that he intends to speak to Lily to see if he can diffuse the tension between her and Devon.

At Society, Lily urges Nate to stay out of the conflict between her and Devon.

THE EX FILES

At the Grand Phoenix, Daniel says good-bye to Heather and Lucy as they prepare to return to Portugal. Heather and Daniel wish each other the best and Daniel tells Lucy that he hopes to earn his place back in her life. Afterward, when Phyllis tries to comfort Daniel, he lashes out at her for her recent mistakes toward him.... In the park, Lily and Daniel almost kiss as they discuss their broken hearts and current struggles. Lily encourages Daniel to continue on with Omega Sphere despite his disappointments with Heather and Lucy.... Chelsea tells Daniel about her recent struggles and expresses interest in using his platform to reach people who are struggling.

Later, Nate tells Devon that Neil would not want him and Lily to destroy their bond or Chancellor-Winters.

HELP ME HELP YOU

Stark tells Phyllis that he can offer her a way to bring down Diane and escape all of the condemnation she is facing in town.

CLOSE QUARTERS

Nate and Victoria strategize about how to get Tucker to sell McCall Unlimited to them. Later, Audra interrupts them kissing and notes the vibe in the room.

CHOOSING SIDES

Ashley tells Abby that she feels Tucker's motives may have been sincere in wanting to join forces with her, Devon and Tucker in a family conglomerate.

In his suite, Tucker accuses Audra of no longer being on his side. Later, Ashley instructs Tucker to sell his company to Devon, not the Newmans. Ashley tells Tucker that if he succeeds with Devon it would help to heal the rift between them. Later, Tucker receives a text from Devon that he is willing to meet with him.

Devon calls Christine and informs her that things between him and Lily have turned into a war. Later, at the penthouse, Devon expresses

flashback to 2009

Take Over: Without revealing he was Katherine's (Jeanne Cooper) long-lost son, Tucker (then-Stephen Nichols) convinced her to use Chancellor stock to buy a tech company that he secretly owned.

SEAN SMITH/JPI

Does Lily really believe Jill's (Jess Walton, r.) claim that the IPO is what's best for Chancellor-Winters? Christel Khalil responds:

"Lily does have her reservations, but at the end of the day, Jill owns the company and Lily needs to respect and support her boss."

HOWARD WISE/JPI

their thoughts turn to problems with Stark, Jack insists to Diane that they will figure out a solution.

TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT

At Newman Media, Nate and Victoria admit their attraction, but Nate claims to still be in love with Elena. At the coffeehouse, Audra emphasizes Nate and Victoria's connection to Elena and implies that Victoria has plans for Nate.

Devon confronts Lily at Society for hiring Amanda to represent Chancellor-Winters in their lawsuit.

After Audra informs Victoria and Nate that Tucker wishes to sell his company to Devon, Victoria asks Nate to convince Devon not to accept the offer. □

his gratitude that Abby is in his life and they make love in his bedroom.

FATHER'S SAY

Adam tells Sally that he would like to be the best father possible to their baby and promises he will not use the situation to try to get closer to Sally.

BEST BUY

At the ranch, Nikki and Victor speculate who could have bought Tucker's debt. Nikki points out that Ashley may have been motivated to protect Tucker. Later, Victor tells Adam that he is interested in having Adam run McCall Unlimited when Newman acquires it.

OUTTA THERE

At Society, Jack and Diane inform Kyle that they are leaving town to get away from Jeremy Stark. Later, Kyle tells Stark that Diane and Jack have left town and he should leave Genoa City.

Phyllis appeals to Summer to mend things between them, but Summer says that she fears Phyllis will disappoint her again. At Society, Stark observes Phyllis drinking after her chat with Summer.

SELL, SELL

At Victor's office, Victoria and Victor accuse Ashley of purchasing Tucker's debt. Ashley encourages them to negotiate with Tucker directly about his company. Later, Victoria tells Victor that she believes Ashley's feelings for Tucker have resurfaced.

Tucker informs Devon that he would like him to take over McCall Unlimited and encourages Devon to think about his offer.

CABIN FEVER

After leaving town, Diane and Jack enjoy their romantic escape at the Abbott cabin together. When

SUDOKU ANSWERS

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7	8	3	2	4	1	5	9	6

ask us

we've got the answers

Top Cop: Lisa Rinna, here in 2002, played law enforcer Billie on DAYS.

JESSE GRANT/JPI

Q How many years was Lisa Rinna on DAYS? I am a big fan of the HOUSEWIVES and didn't know she had been on a soap. Thank you.

June L., via email

A Rinna originated the role of DAYS's Billie Reed, Austin's sister and Kate's daughter, in 1992. She left the show in 1995, then returned again from 2002-03, 2012-13 and 2018. She also reprised the role for the Peacock miniseries BEYOND SALEM in 2021.

Q My sister told me that one of the actors who played Y&R's Noah went on to become a teen heartthrob on a hit Nickelodeon show. Do you have any idea what she's talking about?

Denise L., Shadow Hills, CA

A We think your sister is referring to Kevin Schmidt. He played Noah (2008-10, 2011-12) and has a younger brother Kendall, who starred on the Nickelodeon series BIG TIME RUSH.

Q On GH, did Carly and Jason ever sleep together before they were with Sonny and Sam?

M.S., Wayne, NJ

A Yes. Carly and Jason became lovers shortly after her arrival in Port Charles in 1996 and had an ongoing sexual relationship that he ultimately ended.

Q On some online Y&R fan site, Brad Carlton's death was named Most Ironic. I remember he drowned saving Noah from an icy lake but I don't get the irony.

A.L., via email

twin peek

Hello. I can't believe how much Scott Clifton, Liam Spencer on B&B, and Chris Pratt from *Guardians of the Galaxy* look alike. Could you please print side-by-side photos of them? Thank you.

Angelina T., via email

Pratt

Clifton

IMAGE PRESS AGENCY/SHUTTERSTOCK; HOWARD WISE/JPI

A What probably made the tragedy a head-scratcher is that Brad was a former Navy SEAL, so he would've been trained for rescues under those conditions.

Q Something I've always wanted to know: Why is Kelly's called Kelly's on GH?

D.P., via email

A Kelly's got its name from its original owners, spouses Paddy and Rose Kelly, who were introduced along with the diner in 1980.

Q Doesn't B&B's Taylor have other relatives? I seem to remember some from back in the day.

Gina K., via email

A You are correct. Taylor's father, Jack Hamilton, played by soap vet Chris Robinson (ex-Rick, GH), first appeared in 1992 and after three years in the role, he recurred for visits until 2005. Taylor also has a brother, Zach Hamilton, who was played by Michael Watson (ex-Decker, GH) in 1992.

Q Where is Salem supposed to be on DAYS? I thought it was in Illinois but my friend said no. Please help.

L.S.T., via email

A The locale has never been established, but is presumably somewhere in the Midwest because of its proximity to Chicago.

Got a question or "Twin Peeks" suggestion for the staff of *Soap Opera Digest*?

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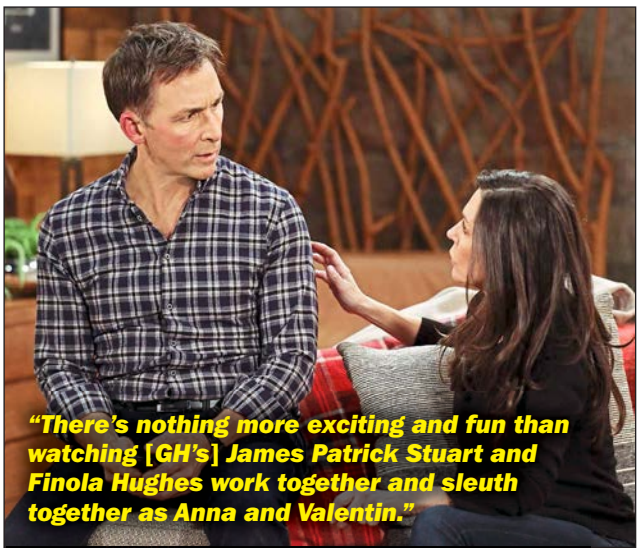
SOUND OFF

What's on your mind?

SIMPLY THE BEST

There was a time in my past when I would rush home every day, looking forward to unwinding while I watched GH. I will admit it has certainly been a while since I felt that passionately about the show. Until the powers-that-be made the decision to pair off Anna Devane and Valentin Cassadine, the show had little to offer me. There's nothing more exciting and fun than watching James Patrick Stuart and Finola Hughes work together and sleuth together as Anna and Valentin. They are fantastic and really give the show, which generally focuses on way too much darkness, the light lift it desperately needs. I love these two together and I love how they interact with other characters seldom used, like Felicia and Mac. You can feel the respect Finola and James have for each other. Anna and Valentin are a supercouple in the making and I hope that they cultivate this couple and the relationship because these are the things that once again cause fans like myself to rush home to the DVR each night. Well done, Finola and James! Well done, GH! Maybe now GH could actually up the episode count for these two, huh?

Alicia F., Reston, VA



"There's nothing more exciting and fun than watching [GH's] James Patrick Stuart and Finola Hughes work together and sleuth together as Anna and Valentin."

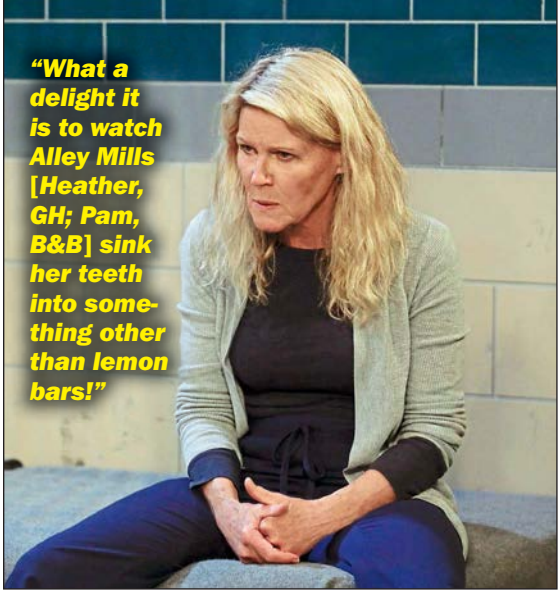
ABC

ACROSS THE MILES

As a longtime DAYS fan, I'm accustomed to "suspending disbelief" during some pretty outlandish storylines. But for me, suspending disbelief does not extend to changing characters like Gabi, that the fans know inside and out. For all her faults, Gabi is a good mother — and she's crazy

about her daughter, Ari. There is no way that she would let Will and Sonny take her halfway around the world to New Zealand! Unfortunately, Will and Sonny are both leaving Salem, but there had to be a better way to handle this. For example, why not have them move to Hollywood? Crazy plots are one thing, but I find changing a character's core values to be truly unbelievable.

Andy in Madison



CHRISTINE BARTOLUCCI/ABC

USER FRIENDLY

What a delight it is to watch Alley Mills [Heather, GH; Pam, B&B] sink her teeth into something other than lemon bars! B&B really let a talent get away from them — and yes, I saw that walk-on she did recently but that certainly did not count. GH has my full attention now with her addition, along with Michael E Knight [Martin]. B&B has so much talent just sitting on that show in the background while the Steffy show roars on. And she has now been awarded custody of Douglas ... seriously? And do not even get me started on what they are doing with Bill.

S. Rohe, Dallas, TX

IN HER DEFENSE

I'm late with this because my February 13th issue just arrived. To all the haters of GH's Carly, including Carolyn Hinsey, has everyone forgotten that Harmony *begged* Carly not to tell Willow that Nina is her mother? What Carly withheld was a deathbed wish, and I wish she'd reveal that to Drew and Willow and even Nina. Wake up and cut Carly some slack!

Sharon P., Loudon TN

MOTHER LODE

Did Taylor Hayes on B&B really say about Hope, "I feel for her, Brooke. I feel for her mama's heart"? She feels bad for Hope now, when just a few weeks ago, Taylor was fighting tooth and nail to have Douglas stay with Thomas at Eric's. She didn't care about Hope in the least then, but suddenly she "feels" for her? Obviously, the woman has more than a few loose screws. Brooke had better forget about her new best friend and stay far, far away from her.

Anne H., Greensboro, NC

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AROUND THE DIAL

"I was sad to see Portia's family, Zeke and Sterling, leave so quickly after her wedding on GH," laments Nik W., via email. "Them not being present for Trina's paternity reveal is odd. They're very new so their POV might not be required for the story, but their presence and support was definitely missed. Gavin Houston [Zeke] is a soap veteran and has worked on GH before. He can be a love interest for any number of characters, from Jordan to Elizabeth to Ava. And Sterling is a doctor! GH can *always* use more of those!" Beth H. points out, "It's so hard to stomach watching GH's Nina go on and on about how important Willow is to her now that she is her daughter. Nina is the one who started all the angst with Willow years ago when Willow was Charlotte's teacher. Nina blamed Willow for targeting Charlotte but Charlotte was actually acting out, which came to light, and Nina never bothered to apologize to Willow. Willow tried for a long time to smooth things over, but Nina continued to give Willow a hard time so much over the last few years that it's hard to believe we're supposed to accept that Nina loves Willow now." ... "No more devil storylines on DAYS," urges D.T. in Camarillo, CA. "This has dragged on for too long. Also, I was disappointed that Marlena and Kayla's funerals were not shown. This would have been a good opportunity to highlight the Johnson and Black family ties." ... Ann C. vents, "B&B's Douglas, at such a young age, is *allowed* to pick where he wants to live? Steffy's name was not a choice. That judge should have pointed out to him that it had to be one or the other of his legal parents, as they were the only two choices he had."

YOU SAID IT!

"I love how DAYS's Stephanie reassured Chad that they could take their relationship as slowly as he wanted — right after they'd just had sex!"
— Christina S., Riverside, CA

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Lynn Herring
(Lucy, GH)

■ *What was your favorite TV show as a kid?* "DARK SHADOWS. That had to be my first soap opera exposure. I would run home and I was fascinated by it."

■ *Do you collect anything?* "Much to Wayne's [Northrop, ex-Roman, DAYS et al, her husband] chagrin, I've been collecting rescue horses. I'm up to eight and they're very expensive, these hay eaters."

■ *What is your favorite comfort food?* "Nutella."

■ *What is your best domestic skill?* "It's probably cleaning floors because at the ranch, every piece of mud and cow manure and horse poop comes in on your boots."

■ *What is a staple in your fridge?* "We have pomegranate trees and I always keep pomegranate juice because I love to make smoothies out of it. I also really love yogurt with everything."

TAKE FIVE

JIM WARREN

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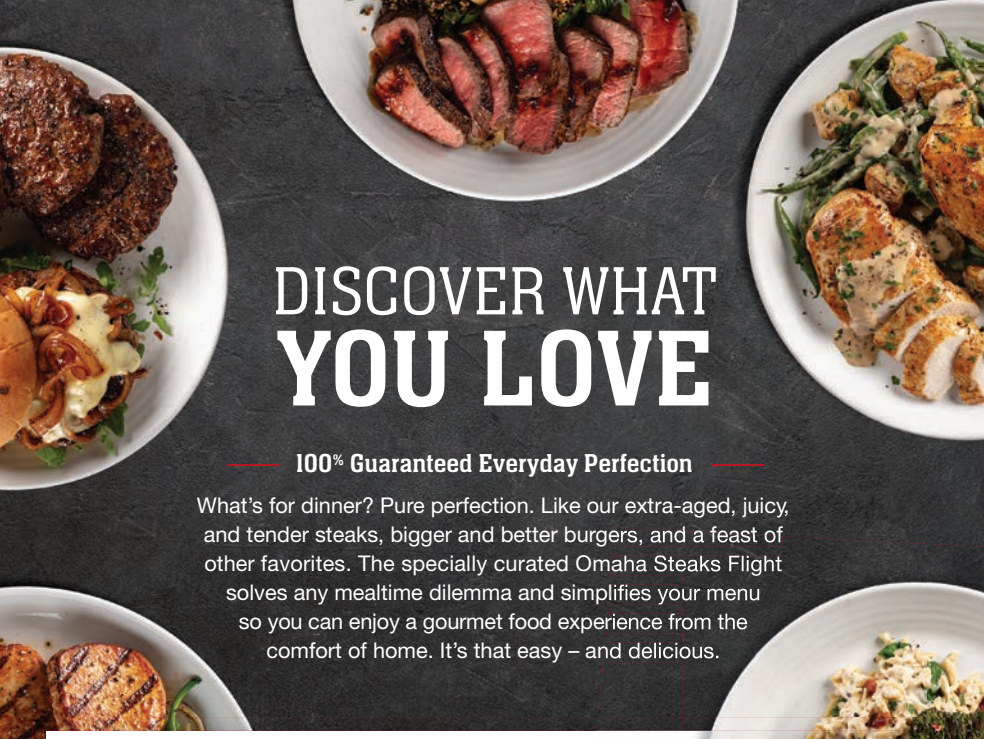

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